



Wisdom of the District- Rising Medical Costs

Question: “Medical costs are rising at three times the rate of inflation due to a variety of factors embedded throughout the system, such as advances in medical technology – in the form of new drugs, new procedures, and new devices – and medical malpractice costs. In fact, according to the McKinsey Global Institute, the United States spends twice as much on health care than it does on food. In light of the increasing cost of health care, what do you think should be done to curb medical costs?”

Answers collected via Wisdom of the District Poll April 2012

Legend		<i>Total</i>
Tort Reform	TR	133
Single Payer System	SP	67
Free Market Approach	FM	92
Repeal the ACA	Rp	41
Implement the ACA	ACA	28
Lifestyle Changes & Choices	LC	33
Insurance Company Reform	In	16
Medicare Reform	MR	19
Caps, Regulations & Mandates	C	60
Miscellaneous	Etc	71

Top Constituent Responses

	Code
Insurance portable across state lines. Legislative reform of prohibitive costs for frivolous lawsuits. USE HSA's as the employee-sponsored method in public sector as done currently in private sector.	FM/TR
Stop government interference in this sector of the economy. That is what has driven up prices. Also, Tort reform Allow insurance companies to sell polices across state lines. Consumers need some way to be able to compare costs for routine procedures to promote competition such as is happening with prescription drugs	FM/TR
Follow Florida and make drug testing for food stamps, unemployment benefits, and medicaid. That should put a lot of money back in the Commonwealth funds and nationally, in order to keep medicare and other senior programs solvent for many years	Etc
Encourage people to take personal responsibility (Adults and children). To encourage people to be active and eat healthy. I know that teachers have a lot to teach our students already. I am an RN and a Certified Diabetes Educator. Many times I have been asked why nutrition is not taught in school along with some basic physiology of how and why we need to eat a healthy diet and to exercise....in terms that make sense. We need to keep recess in a child's day, at least through elementary school. Physical Education should be a part of the required course work thorough highschool. TV commercials about not taking drugs (the fried egg type) and not smoking - lets have creative ones made that talk about and show how being overweight/obese/inactive lead to stroke, cance, heartdisease, dementia, diabetes, etc. Where I work (and many other private business) provide a financial insentive for our employees on our employeers health insurance who complete our Diabetes Education Program (RN/RD/CDE's) and then follow with our Pharmacists on a routine basis (ongoing review and education). Their copays on many medications are reduced. Of course this is optional but the payoff is improved health (there are stats) = less cost for employer and less out of pocket for employee on meds. Why can't something like this be part of the Medicare/Medicaid system. It can be done for many chronic illnesses. I recognize that there are many folks who live in isolated areas but, there are already many Nationaly recognized programs out there. I also do some work in Cardiac Rehab, require gov't. insured folk to include Tricare...(my husband is retired Navy) to participate in the type of educational programs like Diabetes Education-or if they have had a diagnosis that Medicare/Medicaid/Tricare pays for rehab, they need to attend. Work on allowing private insurance to cross state lines and PLEASE get rid of OBAMA Care. And then take the time to review what OBAMA Care containde and determine what parts are beneficial. Of course I'd like more coverage for Diabetes Education/Medical Nutrition Therapy opportunities in Gov't. insurance. I appologize if these ideas do not make sense, feel free to contact me. Also, about personal responsibility...we need that to be stressed in so many aspects of our lives...we need to provide "entitlements to those truly in need" but I feel that there are many who just expect handouts!	LC
The health care industry has many areas and many problems. There is no one broad brush stroke which can "fix" the problems because they are so complex. In my opinion, the Medicare system is an excellent system for controlling costs in every area. From hospitals, doctors, companies who process test to authorizing procedures. The country may benefit from a Medicare system for everyone. The large spread in charges for procedures, the spread in the costs of medications, and the difference in the procedure for approving procedures all need to be addressed	SP
Insurance companies should be capped at what they can charge per person and family and prescriptions should not be tiered. Our doctors are forced to manipulate the system in order to treat and prescribe for patients, based upon insurance companies increasingly ridiculous stipulations and regulations. Prescription manufacturers should also be capped as to what they can charge for prescriptions to enable insurance companies to reduce the "copay" the insured must pay	In
First, put more responsibility in the hands of consumers. Second, let everyone create health savings accounts (if they wish). Third, let people have catostropic care coverage in combination with health savings accounts. Fourth, get the federal government out of the health care business. Fifth, if there has to be some level of government health care move it to the states. Sixth, I like the Ryan proposal to give seniors a grant so they can shop for their own health care. Seventh, make health care portable from state to state and get it out of the hands of employers. Eighth, means test health care for those who can afford it on their own (for example federal retirees who already have health insurance through the federal government)	FM
Tackle the issue in logical steps. The easiest is tort reform; just put some rational limits on awards and make it costly for some one to file an unreasonable lawsuit. Next establish what I would call "doc in box" facilities outside emergency rooms so the uninsured can still get care but not at emergency room prices. Next devote the resources necessary to sopt out of control fraud; especially in medicare and medicaid. These should be fairly easy to do in the short term and then the spirally cost of treatments can be addressed	TR

Make medical insurance companies compete nationwide like car insurance. That should lower costs. Use the V.A. As an example for drug purchases. Malpractice amounts to around .5 per cent of medical costs. Instead of going after that how about restricting insurance companies from over charging the doctors	In/FM
I think people would act more like shoppers with regard to medical care if they had options and knowledge of what the options provided (good and bad). As medical care consumers we have virtually zero information about what works and what doesn't, which doctors are competent and which are not, which hospitals do a good job of protecting us from infections and germs and which do not, etc. In other words, give us the kind of information we get from Consumers Reports on the everyday items we purchase (cars, appliances, etc.) on medical care and we could be better consumers of medical care. In addition, those individuals with unhealthy lifestyles (overweight, smokers, drug users, etc.) should pay significantly more for their health care than those who make an effort to live a healthy life. Why should those who make the effort to live a healthy life style pay for the excesses of those who don't?	LC
First and foremost greatly limit the ability and awards for malpractice. You can't sue for malpractice in most counties with a single-payer system, why should a free-market system be any different in that. Allow the purchahsed of insurance across state lines. Do not allow pharmaceuticals to advertise product on TV. Inform the country that medical insurance is INSURANCE, not a discount medical plan. Reduce the amount of Medicare-Medicade paperwork that has doctors hiring staff to just take care of paper pushing and not heath services. I am no expert, I am on Medicare. But i see a lot of restrictions put on health care professionals and insurance companies and not a lot of free market based common sense.And why a drug company needs to spend millions to advertise a drug is beyond me	TR
I think that we need a single payor system that uses evidence based medicine for medical decision making. We should reward prescribers for using generic medications over more expensive, often less tested brand names. We should incentivize peaple (patients) to maintain good health habits. We should use accepted medical standards to determine end of life care issues	FM
More wide-spread use of health savings accounts would make people more accountable for their expenses and more aware of the cost of care. It would also allow them to shop for more competitive prices	FM
find a way to have a consistent, reasonable cost structure; apply Medicare rates across the board, perhaps; allow insurance companies across state lines; provide means of getting into bigger 'pools' if you're not employed or you're self employed	FM
All of the things you mention are no doubt true and another major factor is the lack of competition among insurance carriers across state lines. Having compared Medicare Advantage plans with Carve-out plans for my employer the efficiency of the Advantage plans is nothing short of phenomenal. Competition works. Unfortunately after some debate it was excluded from Obamacare. I hope you will work to address this area of health insurance costs also. One other idea, today there are published costs for each procedure that the non-insured pay while the insurance companies have a much lower "negotiated" rate. If I could self-insure some of my cost at the "negotiated" rate I would be a factor in controlling costs. A radical idea perhaps but please consider it. Sorry for duplicating my email address. Misunderstood the format of the poll - my bad	FM
Insurance companies are for Profit. WE all worry about the profits that oil companies make. Is there any control on profit insurance companies make?? Right now insurance companies tell the doctors what to prescribe, what tests can be done, what procedures can be done and how often you can see a doctor, go to a clinic or mental health institute. Why do they have that much control as well as determine who they will insure in the first place. Power companies are regulated over rate increases, what about the insurance companies? If you do anything to they don't like they will drop you because they know they are powerful and control you in so many ways. How did they get this way? IF that is known then reverse that path	In
Sell insurance across state lines, tort reform, crack down on frivolous medical malpractice suits. Somehow regulate pharmaceutical companies from lobbying doctors to sell high cost prescriptions when generics work fine but still let the free market work. Maybe somehow incentivize doctors to use the best, but still cost effective drugs	FM/TR
Obamacare is a start in the right direction, in that everyone will need to buy into a system in order to keep costs down overall and private insurers involved in the system. I also think Medicare , and Social security, should phase in some type of means test, in the sense that the Medicare Part B premium should be raised, according to the previous year's income. Social security should also be means tested, based on previous year's income, with people over a certain amount getting a percentage less than average. The more malpractice costs are reigned in, the braver physicians will be in deciding not to schedule tests for patients when they truly believe nothing additional will be gained from the tests.	ACA/MR
Require publishing of prices by medical profession of various medical procedures so that patients can make choices, this will add competition and bring down costs	FM*

All Constituent Responses

Code

WE should LEARN from European experience, for example Sweden, and implement their way in medical care. It works, it is much cheaper and people are much happier!

SP

The entire system needs fixing; I feel that single payer would force that to happen. I come from a family of physicians, and the younger generation MDs feel that way.

SP

Competition. Look at specials on lasik procedures. Minimize government except to set standards, then let the market do its job.

FM

Find ways to reduce bogus medical malpractice suits, reduce bogus medicare claims, and other corrupt systems

TR

Support OBAMACARE

ACA

Do not allow Obama/Romney Care and get the Government Employees to pay for health care like the rest of the USA. It is not fair that they have all this free health care and do nothing that deserves it like a Military Employee would. Also, get Ron Paul elected. He may not be able to change everything but he is the only one that will try.

SP

We need a government health insurance option and more regulation and oversight of health insurance companies.

FM

I think the new technology, new drugs and malpractice suits are only a small part of the rising healthcare costs. I am a nurse, and I have seen huge increases in the past several years in the amount of patients with chronic diseases that are largely preventable. These are mostly diet-related and are closely associated with obesity. These are diseases like diabetes, heart failure and cancers. In other words, We are becoming sicker because of our diets, and the increasing costs are due to more people seeking care for these diseases. So, the best way to bring healthcare costs under control is to decrease the amount of "sick" people seeking care. That means changing the rules of healthcare insurance companies to cover preventative care and healthier lifestyle choices. No one can argue that smoking and drinking are not healthy, but treatment programs for these addictions is frequently not covered. Obesity surgery is sometimes covered, but the qualifications are strict. These are just two examples. In my opinion, the healthcare law as passed attacked the problem from the wrong side.

LC

If twice as much is being spent on healthcare as is spent on food, perhaps we should reverse that so that more is spent on prevention through health education, particularly about healthy food, weight control, preventing diabetes, which is extremely costly, and a major component of all healthcare costs.

LC

limit drug costs and insurance

C

Tort reform, have health care focus more on life threatening issues versus "cosmetic/discretionary medical procedures, develop a better oversight on large medical companies who decide pricing and procedures, and have a closer procedure decision relationship between the patient and the doctor- many of the procedures doctors recommend that add to the expense in a significant way would not be done if the patient were paying the bills.

TR

Get rid of employer-furnished insurance and make everyone responsible for his own health care situaion. Once it gets down to individuals having to pay, there will be many fewer visits to doctors and many fewer decisions to undergo expensive procedures. With demand falling off, so will prices.

In

Investigate the food wisdom of our ancestors. www.westonaprice.org They knew how to make healthy babies

LC

Ban prescription drug advertising, limit malpractice settlements

TR

Pass President Obama's health care bill

ACA

I feel the insurance companies should not be paying for all the medical costs, just insuring that there is financial coverage for the unexpected expensive procedures. The all manage other routine "maintenance" costs such as car repairs, clothing, cleaning, home repair, etc - why should we not be responsible in managing our health maintenance? I feel if insurance companies did not have to do this managing for us, the more meaningful insurance policy against financial would be much more affordable. I also think medical malpractice insurance should be by the government and part of the licensing of a medical institution or doctor - then limited in regards to amounts rewarded. This way you could reduce costs for good doctors and remove bad doctors from the system.	In
Purchase insurance across state lines, tort reform	FM/TR
Reduce the amount of government involvement in health care. As in education when the government floods a service with money the subject service will expand to absorb all that is available.	FM
single payer	SP
24. Make medical costs transparent and standard pricing across services. Put limits on mal-practice suits categorizing recovery amount to type of service. Cap lawyer fees at a lower percent than the current 35-40%. Get the lobbyist out of Washington - will this ever happen??	TR
impliment Obama CAre. It will save money and lives.	ACA
tort reform	TR
we need the government to provide all health car insurance, the only way to drive down costs is to remove profit from something that should NEVER be used to make a profit.	SP
Support the President and his efforts!	ACA
limit malpractice trivia and set cap on \$ amount	TR
Stop allowing drug companies to rake limitless profits from the American citizens. As I understand it the G.O.P has always been against negotiating prices for meds with the drug companies. You dont have to reinvent the wheel look at other countries all over the world and follow their lead. As Americans we should have been ashamed that millions of our citizens were dying due their lack of access to health care. The health of Americans should not be run by a board of directors whose only interes is the profits to their shareholders. You can start there	SP
Ask doctors and insurance companies what they would do to decrease costs	Etc
Do away with Obama Care altogether. Set billing regulations for tests, procedures, x-rays, etc., When a patient has insurance the insurance company is charged no less than 4 times as much as a patient would be charged without insurance. This is the flaw in the system. I (because i have insurance) pay for those who don't. Not fair!	In
Stop Advertising TV/Radio advertising for lawyers seeking massive malpractice/damege cases -develop community centers (public health service) so people without insurance have a place to go other than clogging up our waiting rooms with frivolous ill	TR
Single payer system	SP
curb the amount of malpratice awards. The price of the medical malpractice insurance if very high which brings up the price for the patients.	TR
Very Simple, the Supreme Court shoud Approve the Presidents Medical Plan as it so that 40 Million Americans that Dont have Health Insurance can get it Affordably!!	ACA
Free health care for American citizens!	SP
There should be a price cap on all drugs.Doctors and Hospitals should be held accountable for over charging insurance companies	C
Insurance portable across state lines. Legislative reform of prohibitive costs for frivolous lawsuits. USE HSA's as the employee-sponsored method in public sector as done currently in private sector.	FM/TR

If I could buy my insurance from any provider across the country, like I can my home and life and auto insurance, the competition for my business would drive down the costs. I would prefer that my healthcare not be linked to my employer in the same manner. This way, if I do find a plan that I like, and decide to change jobs (or have that decision made for me) then I could keep the plan I have, and not be dependent on my new employer's "benefit package",	FM
focus more on preventative care	LC
affordable health care act	ACA
Seek a more cost-efficient delivery system for healthcare, without government involvement	Fm
Bring a small group of health professionals that represent front line people to upper management and physicians. put this question to them.	Etc
Ask doctors and insurance companies what they would do to decrease costs.	Etc
require everyone to get health insurance, like every other modern industrialized country does; 2) promote or require more preventative health/checkups; pay doctors based on type of illness being treated rather than per procedure or visit	C
Cap Malpractice suits to start. All pay for these exorbitant suits	TR
Nationalize health care similar to what is being successfully done in western countries. Health care should be removed from business transactions. Kindly provide us with feedback from your other constituents. We must be able to see results of survey automatically particularly when these are not open-ended questions. We would like to know what the wisdom from the district says and if our responses are taken seriously. Thank you	SP
You failed to also mention that there are a lot of uninsured people that people who have insurance are paying for. Obamacare might be the answer, but I think it is in the right direction. Personally, I have always pulled my own weight even as a young single mom. Things were not cushy, but I never resorted to "free" services that so many are getting now. Most people I know and talk to about this issue are angry that we are supporting illegals and "free riders" especially with the economy so bad. Rising medical costs are a complex issue, but ALL of the reasons need to be addressed, including those which are political hot topics	ACA
Tort reform so doctors can actually make money instead of only paying for insurance, either fund the mandate that Reagan implemented requiring all hospitals to treat all wounded regardless of pay or make everybody have some kind of insurance, push to lower the cost of services and medicines	TR
We need a national health care system because the problem is with the private health insurance companies. It should not take 6 months to 1 year of fighting with them over your bills/invoices and it should not take over a year for the hospitals/doctors to get paid for your visit. I heard that a few doctors will not accept or process private medical insurance payments and only accepting cash for a doctor visit. They reduce their overhead and staff and your payment is about the same as the deductible on a private health insurance. Now days, the administration costs are more than the actual hospital/doctor costs and they pass their cost to the consumers which means higher premiums. It is a lose-lose situation for the consumers. We need to ban more of these private health insurance companies from doing business in Virginia	SP
Stop government interference in this sector of the economy. That is what has driven up prices. Also, Tort reform	FM/TR
Allow insurance companies to sell policies across state lines. Consumers need some way to be able to compare costs for routine procedures to promote competition such as is happening with prescription drugs	FM
Cap malpractice insurance. Consolidate health care facilities and standardize cost. working folks pay for health care in one way or another. Those that don't have coverage, should first be drug free and made to pay it back by a reasonable amount of social services or community service. Control prescription drug cost. Please don't mess with the VA or any military benefits for our folks in uniform. They've earned it	TR/C
eliminate Obamacare 2. tort system for medical law cases 3. get dr's off the golf course and back in the office	RP/TR
Make health insurance companies not for profit. put checks in balances in litigation. I am for "Obama Care."	ACA

Single Payer health care cuts out the middle men of the insurance companies and allows all Americans the chance to have health care. It will also free employers from the hassle of handling insurance plans and will allow more quality people to work for small businesses that cannot afford to pay insurance costs	SP
Create regional non-profit healthcare centers. Restrict for profit healthcare profit margins. Allow private purchase of pharmacy products from foreign manufacturers	FM
The only way to significantly reduce health care costs is for every American to take personal responsibility for their own health, start eating healthy, regular exercise. Since this is never going to happen, placing limits on Med Malpractice might be a start	LC
Have a major oversight program to weed out the fraud and ask the medical profession what think should be done	Etc
I believe that a one party payor system would help get everyone covered and would have the clout to negotiate reasonable fees could cut down on costs for everyone	SP
more work on preventative efforts	LC
Endorse Community Health Centers, Endorse the Patient Centered Medical Home Model, Assist with Medicaid for dental coverage in adults	Etc
Fully fund the public health & prevention fund of health care reform. Primary prevention is way to save on health care costs	LC
83. repeal this administrations health care law	RP
repeal Obamacare, tort reform, allow insurance across states	RP/TR/FM
The government should control the amount charged so people are not paying \$10 for an aspirin when they are in the hospital.I believe that healthcare is a right not a priviledge	C
Curb insurance profits	C
Reform Tort Claim (Medical Malpractice) Law so that costs can be contained and stop enabling the enrichment of lawyers who don't have to pursue the truth but only have to stir up uncertainty in a jury; and let the markets work. Governments role is to assist free markets where there is a role for public goods that cannot be readily capitalized	TR
Use IRS to decrease fraud! Tort reform! HSAs	TR
torte reform and health savings accounts	TR
need to stop the use of emergency rooms as family doctors and make insurance mandatory for everyone so that costs are capitated and controlled. The current health care law enacted 2 years ago provides many of the necessary protections and monitoring of costs once fully implemented should be completed. Malpractice insurance should be priced like any other liability coverage(auto) where individual doctors are rated and charged according to their risk profile to eliminate bad docs and to reward those with no claims. the current pooling of risks hurts all major specialty groups, ortho, neuro and obgyn	TR
The Affordable Health Act plan to increase the number of medically insured people (which you are opposed to but works in Switzerland & Mass.) or changing to a governmental single-payer structure would also work. Of course, since you only vote inside the extreme right wing box according to strict party guidelines & pledges, answering your survey is useless. Merely providing political PR	ACA
Fewer intermediaries between doctor and patient, less regulatory expense that diverts money to government agencies or large medical organizations instead of to healthcare providers, more peolpe in healthcare who actually provide healthcare rather than filling out forms, tort law reform, govt. officials held accountable for waste/fraud under their watch	TR
Allow people to buy perscription drugs online from properly vetted foreign companies, reason magazine currently has an article on this topic	FM
universal health care, strengthen Medicare with increased deductibles/copays and increased payment for wellness checks, encourage healthcare directives which will help families plan for death and reduce end of life costs	SP
cap punitive damages in malpractice claims	TR

Follow Florida and make drug testing for food stamps, unemployment benefits, and medicaid. That should put a lot of money back in the Commonwealth funds and nationally, in order to keep medicare and other senior programs solvent for many years	Etc
Reduce the government involvement...let the private sector innovate, compete and profit. Only capitalism will find the answers that we so need	FM
The problem is multi faceted. starting with malpractice business which siphones out big sums and results in a defensive medical practice. The insurance industry and drug companies are amongst the richest in the country and control much of the cost. there used to be a mutual Blue Cross and Blue Shield Co.Hospitals and Physicians are paid on a fee for service basis which promotes over use. A cap on malpractice is the easiest to start with. Import of cheaper drugs should be allowed. Most of our drugs are manufactured in the other countries,but the big companies control availability and price. Hospitals and physician groups should be encourage to contract total care of the patients on a per capita basis rather than fee for service basis. Finally Mutual Insurance Companies should be established by states and localities. We are one of the worst industrialized countries in terms of access to care for ordinary people. Why can't we learn from other industrial countries approach to delivery of medical care? Thank you	TR
get the gov't out of medicine. Medical savings acct. get rid of the FDA. The gov't is the problem because it dominates health care. health care is too important NOT to be disciplined by market competition	FM
Law suit reform,get fed and state out of insurance policies, free up insurance companies to offer different types of policies and across state lines,health insurance should be personal purchase not through employer	TR
End Obamacare, allow health insurance to be sold anywhere in the US, put a dollar limit on law suits, prevent illegals from free medical care	TR
See Canada's plan	SP
Profit seems to be the key word with medical costs whether it is doctor owned facilities or drug companies. There must be a way to cap costs to stop runaway profit gouging and still have quality care. We must study other countries and try to learn from them	C
Allow private health care to compete across state borders. Put limits on health care lawsuit payouts	FM/TR
Costs increase because insurance companies need to make a profit. I work in HR and we recently changed carriers because they wanted to increase our rates 18% even though our experience was under what we paid them for premiums. However, they need to make so much of a profit or your rates are set to go up at a specific percentage. To fix rising health care costs, you need to look into what insurance companies are doing	Etc
Encourage people to take personal responsibility (Adults and children). To encourage people to be active and eat healthy. I know that teachers have a lot to teach our students already. I am an RN and a Certified Diabetes Educator. Many times I have been asked why nutrition is not taught in school along with some basic physiology of how and why we need to eat a healthy diet and to exercise....in terms that make sense. We need to keep recess in a child's day, at least through elementary school. Physical Education should be a part of the required course work through high school. TV commercials about not taking drugs (the fried egg type) and not smoking - lets have creative ones made that talk about and show how being overweight/obese/inactive lead to stroke, cancer, heart disease, dementia, diabetes, etc. Where I work (and many other private businesses) provide a financial incentive for our employees on our employers health insurance who complete our Diabetes Education Program (RN/RD/CDE's) and then follow with our Pharmacists on a routine basis (ongoing review and education). Their copays on many medications are reduced. Of course this is optional but the payoff is improved health (there are stats) = less cost for employer and less out of pocket for employee on meds. Why can't something like this be part of the Medicare/Medicaid system. It can be done for many chronic illnesses. I recognize that there are many folks who live in isolated areas but, there are already many nationally recognized programs out there. I also do some work in Cardiac Rehab, require gov't. insured folks to include Tricare...(my husband is retired Navy) to participate in the type of educational programs like Diabetes Education-or if they have had a diagnosis that Medicare/Medicaid/Tricare pays for rehab, they need to attend. Work on allowing private insurance to cross state lines and PLEASE get rid of OBAMA Care. And then take the time to review what OBAMA Care contains and determine what parts are beneficial. Of course I'd like more coverage for Diabetes Education/Medical Nutrition Therapy opportunities in Gov't. insurance. I apologize if these ideas do not make sense, feel free to contact me. Also, about personal responsibility...we need that to be stressed in so many aspects of our lives....we need to provide "entitlements to those truly in need" but I feel that there are many who just expect handouts!	LC

all doctors should charge the same fee for the same procedure	C
Health care should be treated as a "public utility" and the companies involved with it need to be treated as providers of a "public utility"... and as such, their profits need to be defined and regulated	C
Two possibilities: Malpractice, something should be done that severely caps lawsuits to put an end to ludicrous payouts for mistakes made by doctors. The other is that I wonder if health care was controlled like the power utility companies are. I noticed that our electrical costs are kept more in line when the companies profit margins are controlled by law. I remember back when the California power companies were deregulated and the fiasco that took place as greedy businessman tried to take advantage of the consumer. Here in Virginia, I think that Dominion Power was scheduled to be deregulated, but eventually that was nixed due to what happened in California. Health Care is a requirement for people. You can't choose not to use health care, so no company should be able to profit over what is required to keep the business going. I think the reason health care is so expensive is because profit is the driving factor	C/TR
Establish a nation wide standard of care while figuring out how to make public, the costs of procedures/care and allow the consumer to be able to find out historical outcomes. Right now the consumer typically has no idea what any medical care is going to cost before they get the bill and they have no way to know if their doctor or hospital is any good	SP
Have medicaid patients pay a co pay like every one else	Etc
Stop medicare and insurance fraud and hospitals and Doctors from padding bills	Etc
I feel it is important to provide malpractice protection to our doctors, I feel that the pharmaceutical companies drive to get thier products in the customer hands by providing DR and Medical group kickbacks and incentives should be illegal, i also feel that standard medical procedures should have a base rate excluding complications. this could be very mush like the regulation of the power suppliers. I think that if we are spending to much compared to the rest of the word, we are doing something wrong and we should look to them for ideas	TR
Make birth control (I don't mean aspirin) more easily accessible; make preventative healthcare more easily accessible; make chiropractic care more easily accessible; outlaw circumcision (it's a barbaric, cosmetic procedure); make doulas and direct-entry midwives more available (legal, and supported); quit forcing vaccinations that are no longer needed (such as polio); hold people responsible for ER visit costs that could easily have been prevented with simple preventive care; implement breastfeeding initiatives such as the baby-friendly hospital initiative; make it mandatory that employers pay employees for a reasonable maternity leave, such as 9 months (we are the only western country that doesn't do this). These measures will improve the health of the country, which will effectively reduce medical costs. Breastfeeding has been shown to reduce the incidence of obesity, asthma, respiratory disorders, illness, and even cancer, among innumerable other benefits. Allowing mothers to take the time they need to care for newborns, and encouraging them to breastfeed longer, attachment disorders would decline (the underlying cause of many mental issues), and overall health and happiness would increase	Etc
post prices for procedures and services, connect the consumer of the product/service to the payment, disconnect health insurance from employment (let it be portable like all other forms of insurance), consider cost/benefit -- not just benefit (a new drug is often 10x as expensive for 1% better outcome)	Etc
Regulate the industry	In
limit malpractice awards to curb insurance costs. make plaintiff pay costs for spurious lawsuits	TR
Doctors, hospitals, and nurses need to take charge of their profession and kick the government completely out of medical care. They need to reject control and payment by third parties and make arrangements with their patients. Once the government and insurance companies are out, everyone will get treated according to their needs, not according to their insurance companies and some incompetent government employee. I will be glad to expand on this further	FM
put a "cap" on medical costs...set a "maximum" amount that can be charged	C
Keep Obamacare and modify it to alleviate the minor concerns that people have. Keep the mandatory enrollment in health insurance	ACA
Waivers for denying unnecessary tests, that are only performed to "protect" the doctor. They add significant cost to the patient over and above what insurance companies will pay. Speaking from experience	Etc
universal health care	SP

Malpractice insurance is a practice breaker for doctors. I recommend putting a cap on malpractice suits. I don't think any doctor screws up intentionally	TR
Tort reform, streamline the process, health insurance reform. WHAT we should not do is compromise the quality of care given	TR
Reduce govt regulations and implement tort reform	TR
many little things - Not Obama Care - 1. limit medical liability to something like \$5M plus medical expenses regardless of incident. This would limit the Lawyers and bring down malpractice ins. for Dr.s, hospitals, and drug companies and reduce the cost. 2. Do away with pre-existing conditions. Many have health ins. get sick and are covered. Then they change jobs, or the company get bought out by another. The Ins. company changes, and the person is said to have a pre-existing condition and no longer covered. It was covered! So force the ins. companies to do away with pre-existing exemptions. 3. Require Dr. to post costs. This is one of the few places where you go for a service and have no idea of what it will cost	TR
add more paying people to the mix to cover the cost of medical expenses teach people to take better care of their health so as to stay out of ER	LC
Stop drug companies from advertising prescription drugs on television and overloading doctors offices with representatives during open hours	Etc
nationalize the entire process	SP
First - cut malpractice insurance! - then get the government OUT of the medical field and let competition take over	TR
Deregulate health care and limit malpractice claims (tort reform)	TR
Keep government out of healthcare	FM
Go to a Single Payer, or at least a public option. Other countries get huge savings from this. Drop the "repeal obamacare" rhetoric, and look at all of the good things in it. It isn't perfect. It should have a public option at a minimum. the fall back position to "allow market forces to work" has been a proven failure for more than 30 years now	SP
Greatly curtail medical malpractice lawsuits because the lawyers are the only one that wins in that deal. The fact is not everyone can be cured and some people die. Allow doctors to practice medicine with a common sense approach, not a CYA approach. For example, not everyone with a headache needs an MRI but if it is prescribed the doctor is vulnerable to a lawsuit in the rare case that something bad happens	TR
Return to regulation on insurance agencies. They, like hospitals, should be non-profit. For profit businesses hold the earnings for their shareholders above the needs of their patients	C
1) Restrict pharmaceutical advertising - there is no need for prescription drugs to be marketed directly to consumers 2) implement tort reform - billions of dollars are wasted on "defensive medicine" by physicians and hospitals fearing malpractice suits 3) find a way to restrict access to free medical treatment by illegal immigrants that results in substantial losses for uncompensated care by hospitals	TR
Get the government out of it except as an employer. Allow portable healthcare and interstate commerce to promote marketplace competition	FM
Eliminate middle men who offer little but take a big chunk of the Medicare/Medicaid budget (eg, Amerigroup). Stop all the advertising for prescription medications, electric wheelchairs and such. Let doctors prescribe these by need, not patient wants. And for God's sake, cut down on all the paper work. I go to the doctor and receive 4 or 5 letters/invoices about it	FM
Why don't you study Canada and Europe's national health care programs and see how those countries keep costs down? And you don't need to spend any money in doing this research. Just read articles and the like. One of the major problems with the rising costs of health care is that the CEOs want more money in their and the shareholders' pockets. It always comes down to greed. Congress should pass legislation that puts a cap on profit. Businesses are unable to regulate themselves because of greed. I expect the federal government to regulate businesses	SP
Standards for pricing by medical providers	C

I agree with mandatory insurance for all-EVERYONE needs to pay. curbing medical malpractice, allowing competition between insurance companies (like car insurance)	TR/FM
Roll back in total the Obama Health Care Law and overhaul Medicare	RP
enact a federal single payer plan	SP
Insurance Reform	In
We must cap malpractice awards and punish frivolous suits... but most importantly we must regulate the industry with simple but strong cost controls and regulations that apply to all..NO EXCEPTIONS...We must do this because like all big business they will not self-regulate and obviously have no ethics, charging as much as they can get away with as there is very little oversight	TR
limit malpractice in some way, limit non medical costs that insurers pass on to consumers (including lobbying and salary/bonus); enable negotiating for best price on everything	TR
REPEAL Obama-care 100%	RP
TORT REFORM TO PROTECT DOCTORS FROM UNREASONABLE LAW SUITS	TR
take the gov out of the health care system	FM
freeze current medical pricing at the current levels and everyone should pay the prices negotiated for Medicare and Tricare	TR
Tort Reform	TR
I think we need to move to a national health care system like other civilized countries. And we need to have an honest, public conversation about end-of-life medical practices that serve only to prolong suffering without dignity. I say this as one who will enter the Medicare system this year	C
We need to totally scrap our healthcare system and adopt somethings similar to Canada or the UK. In essence, implement Medicare across the board. A huge amount of our healthcare cost is made up of profits of insurance companies, commissions to insurance agents, and profits to supposedly non-profit hospitals. Here is a link for a very interesting article. http://www.aarp.org/politics-society/government-elections/info-03-2012/myths-canada-health-care.html?cmp=NLC-RSS-DAILY-BULLETIN-H2-042512	SP
I don't want the federal government involved at all!! This is a state / local issue!!!	Etc
Get government completely out of medical care	FM
Restrict medical malpractice suites (with an oversight board in each state) that lets Dr.s:-order fewer test just to CYA; pay lower malpractice premiums; lower unnecessary Rx costs (again CYA). Then, reduce the exhorbitant hospital billings at 2 to 10 times what Medicare pays just so they can write off the paper "loss"; further restrict "routine" use of hospital emergency rooms by those without insurance (it's their Dr. of choice for small ailments)	TR
Tort reform, get the lawyers out of medical decisions. It is the "practice" of medicine, not the "perfect" of medicine. Outrageous malpractice settlements just raise costs and cause unnecessary testing to protect the doctor not the patient. A lawyer who sues on the the behalf of an overweight, smoking burger eater because he had a heart attack should be disbarred. Dump Obamacare also!	TR
tort reform. put the ambulance chasers out of business and increase medicare fraud audits	TR
Get rid of obamacare and let the free market take over	RP/FM
We need to deregulate the industry. The vast government control and allowance for frivolous lawsuits is what's driven up costs to begin with. Not to mention the FDA's incestuous ties with the pharmaceutical industry fast-tracking dangerous drugs to market with no afterthought for the damage wrought on millions of lives	FM
STOP OBAMACARE!!!! Kill the Affordable Care Act, allow consumers the ability to purchase insurance across state lines, stop the so-called "free services", stop malpractice suits (doctors are NOT PERFECT, they make mistakes) unless you can prove intent which you can't in most cases this would do the most to bring down health care costs	RP
Limit medical malpractice awards	TR

Please at least limit the amount that Insurance companies can increase premiums without significant oversight. And oh by the way VA has a limit that is far too high! How about twice the inflation rate	In
First, solve the Medicare funding problem rather than putting off the problem month by month. Incorporate Information Technology to reduce medical costs and reduce paper work. Incentivise doctors and hospitals to help reduce costs using their knowledge of the SYSTEM. Implement a National Health care policy for ALL legal US citizens. Pass a law that Social Security and Medicare funds can only be used for their intended purposes and raise costs of these programs if necessary to ensure lifetime benefits for all legal US citizens	Etc
have the government stop paying an unlimited amount for health care.. When the government has an open check book the cost goes up. Example: every time the BAQ and VHA went up for the military the rent rates went up. Socialism is not the way in government or medicine	C
Reduce medical malpractice costs (e.g. fix legal system)	TR
The health care industry has many areas and many problems. There is no one broad brush stroke which can "fix" the problems because they are so complex. In my opinion, the Medicare system is an excellent system for controlling costs in every area. From hospitals, doctors, companies who process test to authorizing procedures. The country may benefit from a Medicare system for everyone. The large spread in charges for procedures, the spread in the costs of medications, and the difference in the procedure for approving procedures all need to be addressed	SP
Two obvious solutions, given the information you give us, would be to (a) EITHER prevent malpractice OR set a limit on the amount that can be obtained from malpractice suits OR BOTH and (b) to consider whether the old technology might not be better because of costing less. Other ideas might be to find more opportunities for volunteers and to consider other ways in which to delivery existing services more cheaply. (maybe look at comparative studies of medical practices in various institutions in the US and elsewhere.)	TR
Hospitals should provide be required to list standardized costs for all procedures to foster market competition	FM
Allow Americans to purchase drugs from other countries but, ensure that drugs met FDA requirements at seller's expense	FM
Place restrictions on medical malpractice suits. It should be the responsibility of the patient to ensure that their doctors are reliable and competent. Also, allow for incentives for companies to provide lower cost medical equipment to hospitals and Doctors' offices	TR
Place a cap (percentage of profit) on all doctors, hospitals, insurance companies/providers, etc	C
Simple one line answer; CUT OUT THE FRAUD	Etc
How about tort reform? This subject seems to be off limits when brought up. Is it because there is a lot of lawyers that are politicians? Also, medical costs are rising for those that actually pay for the services. Many get treatment knowing full well that they have no intent of paying. So who pays for them???' The responsible ones. The ones that the government leaves to the wolves. We are the ones that barely afford to live on what we earn because we earn too much for a "helping hand" and not enough to get to the "next level" so we get no where and are left behind (ask Sen. Jim Webb for a copy of my email regarding the housing issue, 3 years ago. It talks about how much I'm not getting back because I did not over extend myself during the housing boom). Personally, I tired of footing the bill for others	TR
FIRST: SCRAP OBAMACARE!!! Open up the availability of insurance across state lines, and let everyone choose what he/she needs. Put limits on the amount of money awarded in medical malpractice lawsuits. Subsidize insurance for those who REALLY can't afford it, but also hold everyone repsonsible to pay for their medical care if they don't have medical insurance. We are all expected to pay all the rest of our bills, why shouldn't our health care be treated in the same way?	RP
Socialized Medicine	SP
one of the reasons being is that our doctors have to practice defensive medicine	TR
tie government funding and grants. to price control	C

begin a shift to a market-driven health care system, with competitive pricing that drives costs down. allow citizens to save money in a tax-free account to spend on health care and shop for the "best price"--like a "voucher system" (from education) for health care	FM
Increase the supply of RNs, PAs and MDs. Encourage growth in the number of smaller clinics and urgent care centers not owned and controlled by the big hospital chains	Etc
Insurance companies should be capped at what they can charge per person and family and prescriptions should not be tiered. Our doctors are forced to manipulate the system in order to treat and prescribe for patients, based upon insurance companies increasingly ridiculous stipulations and regulations. Prescription manufacturers should also be capped as to what they can charge for prescriptions to enable insurance companies to reduce the "copay" the insured must pay	In
Reform medical malpractice laws	TR
Put a cap on malpractice law suits. Do not give needless tests. Post costs of all treatments and visits. Why is this so secretive?	TR
The medical field needs to police its doctors, nurses and assistants in the entire medical field to eliminate as much malpractice as possible. The cases of malpractice should be looked at more closely by AMA panels to weed out substandard professional people in the medical field	TR
regulate doctors insurance companies and drug companies. Health care should not be for profit. If so y have them take an oath, if thats the case then change it to say we only help people with lots of money. they do more harm to poor people who cant afford it. It's crap and health care should be free to all. With as much as we pay in taxes I'd rather see us worry about our own country than throw our weight around the world. Take care of our own, we are a republic, not an empire, yet we occupy every country we have gone into. Stop spending on national defense and spend on the defense of disease and sickness. Live people pay taxes not dead people or pharmaceutical companies. They get tax breaks, and if u let the tax payers die because we can't afford health care because we are paying such high taxes, than this country is up shits creek without a paddle. Why are health care and education suffering when that's what will ensure the success of this country. Not doing well with uneducated obese sick idiots, while we build other nations	C
i think that Tort reform has to be part of any Health Care Cost debate. there are unnecessary tests done every day to try and guard against malpractice lawsuits. I also believe that The overlapping beaucary at the local, state, and federal levels does much to drive up costs. I have recently read in the Va. Pilot that there are no standard costs for the same procedures at various hospitals. The new Health care Bill seems to add even more over reaching regulations making it more costly just to keep up with the changes	TR
More wide-spread use of health savings accounts would make people more accountable for their expenses and more aware of the cost of care. It would also allow them to shop for more competitive prices	FM
socialized medical where everyone is covered just like in other countrys! Medical plans should be the same for everyone, the cost should be from income tax, pay for healthcare provdes should be bycontrolled by govt. Why do you think we have so many doctor's and nurse's, etc from other countrys cause in there country its controlled and they cant make as much money, so curb it by socializing it!	SP
Put a cap on medical malpractice claims	TR
Take away the "network" system, it limits free choice of doctors. I haven't had health care til recently and the costs are outrageous	Etc
Heavy regulation, as the folks who set these costs will continue to raise them without consequence if left to their own devices. Also, universal health care is absolutely necessary in America and frankly I think efforts to block the passage of the bill based on some antiquated equation of socialism and evil? THAT'S evil. This poll right here is why we need universal health care. I'm on my father's military insurance. What about other young people like me who can't afford the doctor at all?	SP
Terminate Medicaid and Medicare (need discussion on how to phase these out). Replace with vouchers and/or health savings accounts. Establish punitive malpractice caps (however, make victims whole for actual losses, hospital stays, lost lifetime income, etc.). Establish criminal penalties for patterns of malpractice behavior (to include schedules of fines, and eliminating the bad practitioners through insurance denial and loss of licenses)	TR

Control profits for insurance companies, perhaps lessen the wealth status of doctors, tamp down punitive damages on torts, ENCOURAGE HEALTHY BEHAVIOR AMONG AMERICANS TO INCLUDE VIGOROUS EXERCISE AND HEALTHY EATING, close McDonalds and Burger King	LC
Keep the Affordable Health Care in place but allow states to opt out with an acceptable/approved plan for the state	ACA
find a way to have a consistent, reasonable cost structure; apply Medicare rates across the board, perhaps; allow insurance companies across state lines; provide means of getting into bigger 'pools' if you're not employed or you're self employed	FM
Repeal the Affordable Healthcare Act	RP
Wish there was a way to have "standardized costs" for certain procedures and meds. Get the non-emergencies out of the emergency rooms	C
230. defeat obamacare!	RP
One of the first is tort reform...organizations and individuals have to pay enormous amounts to insurance companies who have to pay enormous amounts in awards. Not just one time amonts, but ongoing. Less emphasis on the requirement for	TR
Do not provide medical care to "illegal aliens." Repeal Medicare Part B that Pres Bush pushed. Allow for health care insurance vendors/options to be available across all state lines. Make federal civilian employees pay more for their health insurance. Make Congress accept all health care laws forced on the citizens of this country. No Congressional exemptions or separate programs	Etc
This may sound drastic, but the truth is what it is, and people are going to need to hear this in order to understand this issue. The only way to really get costs for medical care under control is to remove all federal, state, and local governments from the equation. Any program that takes taxpayer dollars and uses them to pay for medical care or medical insurance for others, must be abolished. Yes, this means dismantling Medicare and Medicaid, and any state or local program that likewise engages in coerced socialist redistribution of wealth. A basic understanding of economics and of government shows that government intrusion into the health care or insurance industries completely distorts the market. When prices for a good or service are determined not by consumer demand and consumer choice, but by artificial decrees from the State, costs throughout the affected industry will inevitably rise. When Medicare was implemented, the process was begun that would gradually and surely wreck the healthcare market. The whole purpose was to set the stage for an eventual nationalization of the entire medical industry. It was the goal all along. There's a reason why they called it Progressive Socialism when the movement began. If the TEA Party is really serious about fixing what ails the healthcare industry, it will have to start demanding that Congress (and candidates for same) reverse course completely, and begin privatizing the Medicare and Medicaid programs. If we don't start now, then when? We can't leave this burden to our children and grandchildren. We must not pass on to them the yoke of socialism. The cycle has to be broken, and it's up to us to do it. Oh, and capping punitive damage awards for MedMal cases is an excellent idea, and would swiftly lead to lower prices as the enormous cost of medical malpractice insurance would drastically be reduced, and businesses within the medical field would be restored a good measure of the capacity for economic calculation. Also, if we want to get serious about the cost of medical care, the nation and the several states must reject the regulatory model of policing the industry in favor of the common law model. The regulatory code at both the Federal and State levels is perennially misused by certain large, connected corporate interests to gain advantages over their competition. This corruption also contributes to higher prices. The old common law approach is all that is ever needed to punish any fraud, public endangerment, or other malfeasance in the healthcare industry. In a free market, the only regulation needed is the natural fear of losing market share to competition, and a few broad, simple legal principles to best assure the least amount of harm to patients/customers, and the most effective remedy for cases where wrongdoing occurs. The common law model is vastly superior, and far less costly than the political law model of legislative and executive regulation. Unfortunately, I doubt anyone in politics would ever have the guts to explain	FM
limit malpractice liability. encourage competition among insurance payers. reduce govt regulation/control	TR
tort reform, loser pays and no medical treatment for anything other than life and death emergencies for anyone other than U.S. citizens	TR

Fixed and realistic malpractice awards. No-fault statutes for emergency services. Keep lawyers out of hospitals, and jurors out of pocketbooks. No amount of money can replace an arm, leg or person. Fixed rates for basic medical services, including x-rays, MRI's etc. Fixed malpractice insurance rates	TR
My view is that a first order of business should be the reduction of medical malpractice costs. I can't imagine how to slow technology except by providing incentives for major laboratories to form technology sharing agreements	TR
Support all aspects of health care reform including the mandate	ACA
Cut out fraud in Medicare and repeal Obamacare	RP
Get government out of health care. Demand and supply, etc. will rule!	FM
I am opposed to socialized medicine, however, I see too many healthcare executives continually getting astronomical raises when the cost of services and drugs is marked up 200%. The cost of malpractice and liability insurance certainly influences cost as well as the cost of re-paying education loans for healthcare providers	TR
Do not allow the drug companies to advertise prescription products. This is an expense the consumer must bear. Their only reason for advertising them is to put pressure on doctors to prescribe unnecessary or more expensive medications. 2. Also put a limit on how much a law suit can collect	TR
Free competition between states for insurance companies. Stop providing free medical at hospitals	FM
Start with tort reform that is driving doctors from practicing and increasing the cost of those who stay, develop standards for the number of times expensive tests are performed on the same individual for certain treatments (i.e. current problem is over testing due to fear of legal action), when alternative treatments or tests are available reimburse the cheapest and have any differential cost of more expensive options paid for by the individual, shift cost sharing to 50% for those with personal choice related diseases (lung cancer for smokers, diabetes for obese, STD treatment for all those except rape/abuse victims etc). Stop helo transfers from one hospital to another when less than 60 miles away. Start to make people responsible for their choices and actions	TR
Single payer with Vet Admin/ Tricare Model	SP
cap medical malpractice awards; higher medicare etc taxes for higher incomes (scaled to income); pay doctors for successes not by treatment; limit end-of-life enormous expenses for heroic measures gaining little time or relief	TR
Tort reform! Frivolous law suits are out of control	TR
Allocate a set amount to an individual and allow them to manage their account. It is easy to want perhaps unnecessary medical tests when someone else is paying	C
Enact tort reform to curb ridiculous jury awards in medical malpractice suits. Tie limits on medical costs to the rate of inflation	TR
All of the things you mention are no doubt true and another major factor is the lack of competition among insurance carriers across state lines. Having compared Medicare Advantage plans with Carve-out plans for my employer the efficiency of the Advantage plans is nothing short of phenomenal. Competition works. Unfortunately after some debate it was excluded from Obamacare. I hope you will work to address this area of health insurance costs also. One other idea, today there are published costs for each procedure that the non-insured pay while the insurance companies have a much lower "negotiated" rate. If I could self-insure some of my cost at the "negotiated" rate I would be a factor in controlling costs. A radical idea perhaps but please consider it. Sorry for duplicating my email address. Misunderstood the format of the poll - my bad	FM
I firmly believe that litigation and the fear of litigation drives a significant amount of health care cost. Many otherwise unnecessary tests are done to avoid possible litigation. Tort reform that would go a long way to eliminating the root cause of this	TR
throw out the affordable health care act and develop a realistic health care reform bill.- vote out Obama	RP
Find a way to place controls on costs by having a standard formula for charges by hospitals and Doctors	C
Adopt the German system in law suits in that the loser pays the costs of the winner. cap the amount allowed for damages as set in the health care law passed by Obama	TR

I think people would act more like shoppers with regard to medical care if they had options and knowledge of what the options provided (good and bad). As medical care consumers we have virtually zero information about what works and what doesn't, which doctors are competent and which are not, which hospitals do a good job of protecting us from infections and germs and which do not, etc. In other words, give us the kind of information we get from Consumers Reports on the everyday items we purchase (cars, appliances, etc.) on medical care and we could be better consumers of medical care. In addition, those individuals with unhealthy lifestyles (overweight, smokers, drug users, etc.) should pay significantly more for their health care than those who make an effort to live a healthy life. Why should those who make the effort to live a healthy life style pay for the excesses of those who don't?	LC
Make Drug Companys sell drugs in the United States at the same price they sell the rest of the world. Try harder to stop Medicare fraud. Stop "Obama Care" in it's tracks before any more of his rules come into effect	RP
tort reform, more POS vs PPO, insurance mandate	TR
Eliminate company-based insurance coverage and switch to individual medical health care from a single non-insurance-company source	SP
Tort reform 2. Open up competition across state borders. 3. Breakdown pseudo monopolies like Sentara	TR
Limit healthcare costs by removing government participation in the sector. It is no coincidence that when the government started subsidizing mortgages, we got a housing bubble and when they started providing low cost loans for school, we get a tuition bubble. The same thing has occurred in healthcare. When government started providing medicaid and medicare, we got a bubble in healthcare... surprise, surprise. Now we have the obamacare stuff, which will make it even worse	FM
Use the government's purchasing power to negotiate lower prices on drugs, stop pay doctors per service and incentivize them on their patients improved health (dieting, exercise, low blood pressure, quitting smoking, etc), encourage wiser end of life decision making (why undergo expensive and painful treatment when there is a 5% chance it will work), incentivize drug companies to start making the drugs that are now in shortage because to make them "is no longer profitable.".discourage the evergreening of pharmaceuticals, discourage needless use of emergency rooms for non emergency care by funding more public health clinics.	LC
Change the law to allow insurance companies sell across state line. Pass maingful tort reform so that doctors are not subjected to expensive and junk lawsuits. Eliminate Obamacare down to the last tiny roots of it so there is not so much uncertainty in the marketplace. Expand health coops and tax free medical savings accounts. Speed of the drug approval process so that helpful drugs don't languish for years mired in the limbo for years	TR/FM
arrest obama and holder !! obama does not qualify according to the constition to be president , so all bills /laws signed by him are null and void!! you commy	Etc
Keep the govt out, allow interstate sales of medical insurance and cap malpractice suits	FM
Get the gov't out of the business of insurance. Make Medicare/Medicaid optional	FM
#1 Tort Reform. #2 Place all health care providers under a form of the "Good Samaritan Laws" #3 Doctors don't intentionally make mistakes but if they do, they should be immediately suspended and made to return to medical school for re-certification in the area that they made the mistake	TR
First and foremost greatly limit the ability and awards for malpractice. You can't sue for malpractice in most counties with a single-payer system, why should a free-market system be any different in that. Allow the purchasd of insurance across state lines. Do not allow pharmaceuticals to advertise product on TV. Inform the country that medical insurance is INSURANCE, not a discount medical plan. Reduce the amount of Medicare-Medicade paperwork that has doctors hiring staff to just take care of paper pushing and not heath services. I am no expert, I am on Medicare. But i see a lot of restrictions put on health care professionals and insurance companies and not a lot of free market based common sense.And why a drug company needs to spend millions to advertise a drug is beyond me	TR
No free lunch, no free medical care. Pay as you go or get insurance, your choice. Government needs to govern, not provide everyone things they should provide themselves	FM
There should be a set price for some medical services. Medicare services should be expanded to cover lower income individuals who can't afford private health insurance. I think there should be a "Best practices" established to reduce unnecessary tests and procedures recommended by doctors. There should me more emphasis on preventative care	C
Outlaw charging \$10 for an aspirin and move up from there	C

Change the laws so we can stop encouraging unnecessary tests	MR
stop offering free health care to nonlegal people that dont pay taxes	Etc
Repeal Obamacare 2. Allow citizens to purchase health insurance across state lines 3. simplify the FDA process for new drug approval	RP
all the things that you mention are needed for advancement in medicine except the malpractice.the medical profession has been fighting the same ailments for years cancer, Alzheimer and the such,what we have created is a new problem the the countless amount of our men and women in the military needing out of the norm medical attention from war.when are the politicians going to get it.i think if we get out of these wars we could cut medical costs buy some percentage.Scott fix ssi and become the next president.was great to wake up to that on the front page of the va pilot	Etc
Being able to purchase health insurance from another state. have a choice of different premiums for various types of insurance coverage similar to car insurance	FM
Costa Rica has free medical care but no Social Security. Social Security should be disestablished to pay for medical insurance for all who want it. Malpractice awards should be capped	MR
Allow the Affordable Health Care Act to work	ACA
I don't see how we can curb meddical costs. We have a free market so the cost must be bearable.	FM
I think that we need a single payor system that uses evidence based medicine for medical decision making. We should reward prescribers for using generic medications over more expensive, often less tested brand names. We should incentivize peaple (patients) to maintain good health habits. We should use accepted medical standards to determine end of life care issues	FM
Get the Gov't out of healthcare along with all reporting requirements, cap legal fees and pain and suffering awards. Since health care companies charge what the market will bear make premiums the responsibility of the individual. I have never understood why employers should pay for general health care: work related injury yes - general health care no	FM/C
automatic coverage for every CITIZEN for very low to no cost. prevention and education emphasized, lots of screenings, checkup, catch disease and UNHEALTHY life style early. Use lower paid practioners like PA's and Nurse practioners. Phase in the philosophy and mind set that if individuals persist in living unhealthy life styles (obesity) then health care dollars will be less available as they age or persist in disregarding what is common sense living. Also reorient the society's thinking about end of life medical care. Move away from the huge expenditures in the last year of life. A sickly 85 year old with co-morbid conditions should not be able to receive hemo dialysis (unless it is self pay of course). Letter doctors counsel the patient about quality of life and dying with dignity. Somehow big business can not be the driving factor in how society allocates resources when a citizen is reaching the end of their time. PLANNING Congressman, the long range kind, needs to become part of this whole health care conversation. We like the free market to guide our society but sometimes there needs to be other factor included in the process!	LC
Have several universal health care menus (options) negotiated by the government on behalf of the citizens and which can be used by the subscriber in all 50 states.	SP
Adopt a single payer system and get the profit motive away from he insurance companies.	SP
We need a system similar to what they have in Canada	SP
First, before working on cutting costs, it would be nice to understand the reasons why the US has about the highest (highest?) per capita medical costs but we rank about 16th in the world in health care results. Second, elder care expenses should be examined. It seems crazy that the vast majority of average health care costs are expended in the last year or two of a person's life. From my experience with a parent, it seems that there are a group of doctors making a lot of money from the system's overtreating the elderly. Finally, single payer insurance so the bureaucracies that waste money (in both the insurance companies and the medical institutions) are eliminated, saving billions in health care cost. In addition, the insurance companies should NOT be for profit	SP
Employers should make use of the newly developing Captive insurance structure and incent employees with reductions in premiums when they have healthy life habits, including a healthy BMI. Obesity in the country is the root of a huge amount of health care costs. By rewarding employees monetarily for participation in wellness programs, we can start to attack the root of the problems. I also believe strongly that pharmaceutical companies should NOT be allowed to advertise on tv and in print. This adds millions to the cost of healthcare.	LC

Tort limits on medical malpractice suits. Stronger regulation of doctors who are incompetent for easier removal of their licence to practice, with reciprocal laws from state to prevent a doctor to move to another state and set up a new practice. Multiple state buying of drugs to reduce costs. Inter-state insurance exchanges to increase competition for health insurance	TR
Limit doctors liability, and allow insurance companies to cross State lines. Competition is good at lowering costs. Additionally, go after drug companies that are raping this country on their drug costs	C
Go to a single payer system: medicare for all US citizens	SP
extend the age of Medicare eligibility to 70. Increase the premium people pay for Medicare	MR
I think health coverage should be provided by the government and not by private interests/corporations who need to make a profit	SP
universal health care	SP
Get gov't out of healthcare! Delete all the mandates. Allow consumers to choose what they need. Allow portability. Remove pre-existing conditions but apply a rate up as in the life ins. business	FM
We pay more and get "worse" care than most industrialized countries. Surely we can figure out how to "do it" by picking the best from Europe and Canada and come up with a good program. Plus....how can a country like the US have 50M people not covered by a health program??	SP
Go to a single payer option and get the waste and fraud perpetrated by the insurance companies out of the system, then cap coverage for wealthy folks fairly and negotiate with drug companies - these are the easy, first line things that your party can't agree to because you're in bed with the special interests that prey on the American public.	SP
Allow health insurance to be purchased across state lines and cap medical malpractice awards at reasonable amounts	FM
Get control of insurance companies cost and medical billing, they set and control what they will pay for medical procedures. For doctors and medical facilities to make more money, they now break up what used to be one cost for a procedure into many different billings for each separate action. Used to be office visit and treatment. Now it's office visit, chart review, test, diagnosis, supplies/equipment and treatment. What used to be one or two billable items have now become 5 to 6 items. Insurance cost goes up, Consumers end up paying more because of fraud in the billing system. Unfortunately the free market system doesn't work in the health care system you can't shop/ negotiate medical procedures like you can if buying a house or car. You have no idea what the procedure will cost until you receive the bill. So much for the free market system in health care	C
I believe that medical malpractice reform is most important....Doctors and Medical facilities are in constant fear of being sued and the insurance they have to buy is draining their wallets and ability to do their best for patients	TR
socialized medicine works. I lived in Australia for 3 years where I had excellent health care, equally in any state for no additional cost to me	SP
Require health care for all so that the burden will be shared by all users of the medical system, not just those who are currently insured	SP
get government out of the health care industry. I'd be happy to go further in discussion but I am on my phone for pressed for time. The Hoover Institute and CATO have had many good papers and discussions on this topic	FM
single payer, medicare for all	SP
Make medical insurance companies compete nationwide like car insurance. That should lower costs. Use the V.A. As an example for drug purchases. Malpractice amounts to around .5 per cent of medical costs. Instead of going after that how about restricting insurance companies from over charging the doctors	In/FM
Start with meaningful tort reform to limit groundless malpractice suits and the TV lawyers trolling for clients for suing every drug manufacturer out there. Next focus on fraud and waste in Medicare and Medicaid. Prosecute abusers and give mandatory jail sentences and restitution. Provide only emergency care for illegal aliens and deport them as soon as they can be safely moved. Limit medical treatments for prison inmates - no more taxpayer funded elective surgeries. Hold hospitals accountable for patient outcomes where conditions are preventable, e.g., hospital-acquired MRSA, staph infections, etc. These would be a good start to fixing the system	C/TR
stop all the frivolous law suits - it's what costs doctors so much in malpractice which raises the cost of healthcare	TR

Single payer universal health care	SP
Repeal the Obama Care law. Limit Malpractice lawsuits forcing the proof of intent. Mistakes happen but intent is different	RP/Tr
Tort reform! Get rid of Obama Care!	TR/RP
Hope & pray the Supreme Court doesn't torpedo the Affordable health care law this summer.	ACA
Find a way to control the insurance companies and place a reasonable regulated cap on what things cost	C
To decrease cost; first reform the tort system. Loser of the lawsuit must pay all costs and the lawyers must share some of the cost with their clients if the judge determines the lawsuit frivolous. If the doctor warns of side effects or adverse out comes lawsuits would not be allowed. Outlaw class action lawsuits because the promote lawsuit extortion and only the lawyers win. This would be the very first step to lower the cost to the health care consumer because it would lower directly the cost in insurance for the hospitals and doctors. I know this will never happen because all congressional representatives fear the lawyer lobby group; but you asked the question.	TR
put a limit on mal-practice suits	TR
Place limits on litigation and monetary rewards. We place insurance limits on military personnel including combat deaths, so , why not limit awards for medical malpractice. I know that limiting medical malpractice will be a tough nut to crack because of the numerous attorney's serving in the congress whom write laws to create litigation that generate legal fees in their best interest, however, if the public had a vote on litigation awards I suspect that it would be severely reduced and consequently reduce doctors insurance, doctors protective medical practices and patient costs. Stop the use of Tax payer cost of Taxi's for free transportation of public assistance patients. Establish a patient copay for all medical visits and medications for everyone, medigap insurance is available to everyone interested in their personal good health and capital preservation	TR
Have the drug companies stop all the TV ads telling us to "ask your doctor if (this drug) is right for you." Those ads cost them millions of dollars. Other than that, I don't know. Perhaps we could afford to pay the rising costs of medical care much easier if we could redirect the billions of dollars we send to foreign countries, for which we seem to derive little or no benefit	Etc
Demand that hospitals and clinics publically lists average costs for their procedures - so that possible clients might compare costs	Etc
tort reform (malpractice and p&c insurance) tax increase on wealthy	TR
Universal health coverage will reduce costs and allow everyone to have access to health care.. It's the very best option	SP
Allow insurance companies to to compete across state lines	FM
Legal reforms concerning malpractice. Docs shouldn't be afraid to practice medicine	TR
Tort reform is necessary. Doctor perform excessive and expensive testing because they are 1. encouraged by equipment and pharmaceutical reps to prescribe expensive procedures, tests and drugs (follow the money) and 2. MDs are afraid of being sued. Providers should tell patients what all charges are for visits and procedures, even that which is paid by Insurers. I actually care and want to know what is being charged and paid on my behalf. Patients should be required to pay out-of-pocket for frivolous visits	TR
Sorry I think this issue needs to be left up to the States this is not a Federal government function to provide health care for all however I do think there needs to be a high risk pool for people with pre existing conditions that will NOT be able to buy Health Care Insurance and will only have it if they are covered thru there employer & they. should have to pay for it	Etc
Do away with Obama CareLimit the dollars on malpractice suites. I can buy some meds from Canada cheaper than I can buy them in the US and sometimes even with insurance paying for part of the drugs	RP
Allow insurance companies to compete across state lines. Allow citizens to take their own risks buying their medications, insults, blood pressure, etc.. from Canada if they wish to do so. American citizens should have right to decide for themselves what risks they will take as well as being able to choose health care plans country wide that is the best for them	FM

First, repeal Obama Care and then repeal any federal laws that stand in the way of complete free market competition across all 50 states. The resulting competition should drive down costs. Another option is to look at what all of the industrialized nations have done to fix the issue of cost (except outright socialism) and pick the "best of the litter" and implement in the US. Pass legislation that significantly limits the amount of punitive damages that can be awarded as the result of a medical malpractice lawsuit and I am not opposed to completely eliminating the ability to sue medical practitioners at all. Thank you	RP/FM
Get rid of Obamacare, and all his social reforms. Find ways to ensure he abides by the constitution in all cases, and cut special provisions (tax breaks) that are keeping our own manufacturers from getting back to building factories and producing goods in America	RP
standardize malpractice payouts; cap/regulate medicine costs; control Medicaid fraud	C
to cut medical costs if you really want to cut costs then you need to focus on nutrition. We need healthier choices in food. We need less processed foods. We need to better educated on what foods are good for you and make them more affordable for everyone. It's less expensive to eat at a fast food establishment than to buy good healthy foods at a supermarket . We need to have or make affordable organic foods available to the consumer. Prevention is the key . Also chemicals that or a by product of our technology need to be addressed. The chemicals are affecting our health and are one of the causes of our health problems	LC
We have got to have tort reform, as doctors are having to pay too much in malpractice insurance, and awards are way out of line with actual injuries suffered. (This applies equally to other types of suits, as we are all paying for attorney's to get rich, and their clients to "make" money. I have watched my mother-in-law, who is now 88, be tested for things that even if a problem were discovered, her overall health would probably prohibit effective treatment. Sorry, but we are wasting money on some of our elderly who have no significant quality of life. Appropriate tort reform might help in this area, too. Health insurance and medicare are paying for way too many motorized scooters and other equipment. Some things are nice "extras", but not really needed. Beef up law enforcement to fight fraud.	TR
Require ALL parents to have health insurance for their children, from birth to adulthood, either through employment, private, or medicaid 2. ALL procedures/products of healthcare need to have a cost share element, even for the lowest income level, e.g. for appointments, prescriptions, and equipment, to limit frivolity and boost appreciation (persons with low income may be reimbursed or make payment via community service) 3. Eliminate "pain and suffering" compensation from ALL medical legal claims and place a limit on loss of income medical claims (life has tragities and individuals should be compensated if incapacitated so that they can live, but not so much that they live well (if a financial penalty is warranted then it should go into a legal defense fund for indigents	Etc/ TR
Have a universal health care, tax supported insurance system similar to Canada	SP
Doctors clearly charge more than feasibly possible for patients to pay knowing that the Medicare standards are going to approve less and therefore receiving less. If the standard is 'medicare pricing' wouldn't that be one place to start to lower the cap. Another issue I personally ran into was after numerous surgeries this past year, medical facilities do not want to work with you to allow you payments you can afford. Each one acts as if their bill is the only bill. Since most adults are seemingly living on a fixed or vanishing income, even adding a monthly payment of \$50 puts a strain on budgeting. Then if you have to add more payments for each facility or doctor its almost impossible to get by. The TRUE HMO (with fixed copays) apparently does not exist anymore. We (the working people of this country) cannot afford to be sick or sickly anymore. If so, we tend to not take care of ourselves because we can afford the dr visit copays or anything beyond that	MR
Single payer healthcare system	SP
Require publishing of prices by medical profession of various medical procedures so that patients can make choices, this will add competition and bring down costs	FM*
Government curbs to out of control profiteering by insurance and drug companies, SEC to limit treatment of healthcare as a commodity (profiteering on wellness), lifestyle standards to set personal contribution levels (consistent with actuarial means already in use), encourage education of more nurses and doctors, support the President in developing a coherent national health care plan and policy	ACA/C
change the law to enable consumers to shop health insurance across state borders (let the free market WORK) and REPEAL OBAMACARE and it's ridiculous and unsustainable mandates	FM/RP
Implement Obamacare making changes where needed. Repealing it and more of the same is not going to cut it	ACA

The government should STOP regulating the private sector!!!!	FM
We want medical coverage like Canada and France have it!!! There you go, TWO working models to work from already in place	SP
Think we need to regulate malpractice suits and insurance settlements. Need to enable interstate insurance plans are allowed	C/FM
First get rid of Obama-Care. Second sit down with the leaders of the Health Care Industry and find a way to curb the costs of medical care without making it an unbearable burden on the people that need it. The government has no business trying to decide who gets treatment and who is too old, or who is unable to benefit from proper treatment	RP/FM
more access to preventative medical care	LC
There is BIG money in the pharmaceutical business so you're taking on very tall order if you want to cut medical costs. First of all, DO NOT ALLOW pharmaceutical commercials on TV. They are creating a mindset in the American people that we all have something wrong with us and we all need to be on meds!!! Another simple way to curb costs is to improve the health of our children by improving the food they eat. Schools would be a good place to start. Mandate physical fitness in school - if we had more recesses in school with REAL exercise such as kick ball, we'd have fewer children on Ritalin in the classroom. If you can loosen the pharmaceutical grip on our government, we'd all be better off. I'm sorry I don't have anything more specific to suggest. bottom line - healthy lifestyle = fewer medical costs (and get rid of the brainwashing of commercials on TV!!)	LC
Good Lord. Where do I start and how do I fit it in this space? I think we should pass a Universal single payer health insurance plan for all Americans immediately! Big Pharma should be restricted in advertising drugs they want to "sell". This only increases costs and stimulates demand for drugs quite often not needed from suggestible patients. Insurance should pay for services performed necessarily, not unlimited tests to protect providers from malpractice. Great effort needs to be made to restrict the manufacture and selling of foods EVERYONE knows cause harm to the human body: Sodas, cookies, candies, chips, meats including pink slime, etc. School programs for health including HEALTHY food AND fitness should be FULLY funded by the Federal Government! Not everyone can afford to belong to a gym or buy fresh, organic foods. Raising unhealthy people will not provide you guys with bodies for the military much longer. Toxins and pollutants should be monitored, controlled and restricted because they inflict a huge strain on the overall health conditions of the citizens of this country! You did a good thing in educating everyone about the damaging results of smoking and yet, tobacco companies are still on the air and making money. Does any of this make sense to you, Mr. Rigell? I figured you for a smart man. Be smart and show some drive FOR this country and it's people!	SP/C
Lower malpractice awards and costs	TR
Repeal Obamacare; Institute tort reform	RP/ TR
Allow for insurance companies to do business across state lines	FM
Notice that the cost of medical services have gone up in accordance with the rise in lawyers. If people are required to accept personal responsibility for their actions then those who smoke, drink and otherwise live dangerous lifestyles then they should pay their cost and not the taxpayers. Also forcing doctors to keep people alive because of the fear of lawsuits is stupid. Reign in the lawyers and their actions. If a person receives a medical license by passing a board test then it is the creators of the exams that approve that the person is capable of performing as a medical person who should be held accountable for failures. Joke, who should we be most afraid of "The Mafia" or "The Congress". Share this with the rest of the criminals in DC	LC
My idea is a public option where individuals and families register for health insurance. Each participant would pay a feasible amount to enroll (based on age, health, size of family, etc.). No one would be denied enrollment due to a pre-existing condition. There would be reasonable co-pays for procedures and medication and a catastrophic cap so no one goes bankrupt to get well. The success in this plan will be in the large number of participants. Also, more people will be able to access health care, which will lead to improvement in their health. A healthier population translates to lower health costs overall. I believe there is a ready market for this kind of option since health insurance is currently beyond financial reach for many people.	Etc
have Doctors more accountable for their billing. Have patients sign off that they had the visit. Give fasted deprecations to medical companies to recoup their expenses. AND GET RID OF OBAMA CARE ASAP	C/RP
Regulate the health industry and cap profits. This also includes the support industry such as medical supplies and equipment. And reform tort law so Doctors do not need to run unnecessary tests or lean heavily on liability insurance. Reform liability insurance regulations to make ridiculous requirements upon health care providers unlawful	C
Tort reform	TR

Tort Reform, Keep medical "Obama Care" alive also. Medical coverage should be a right not a privilege for those who can afford it	ACA/TR
Insurance companies should be able to compete across states - this would make it more beneficial for consumers and lower costs. Also, waste in Medicare and Medicaid needs to be addressed. For example, just because we can keep people alive on breathing tubes and machines, doesn't mean that we should. There are examples of older people (over 80) that are being kept alive on machines and there is no quality of life. Why are we using tax payer money to keep them alive, especially when there are young people who don't have coverage? We need to re-evaluate our entire medical system and use common sense about what is reasonable care and what is excessive.	FM
You have to have the patient pay directly a percentage of all the medical fees they incur otherwise the health care providers charge more, and there is much more fraud intruded into the billing process. As a Medicaid Fraud Analyst I know. Having a universal Federal Health Insurance program would invite the biggest fraud of all, so a universal health care plan would not save money unless you went to a set salary for the medical position instead of a fee for procedure type of system. The problem with that is then the medical providers have a disincentive to do any work	Etc
palliative care after age of 90. reduce number of expensive tests performed. make annual check ups mandatory. incentivize weight loss	C/LC
Cap malpractice awards to reduce cost of Dr. and hospital malpractice insurance. Allow insurance companies to compete across state lines. Many countries prevent pharmaceutical companies from recovering R&D costs through sale of the medicine so we in the US must cover the entire cost. The world benefits from the drug, but we pay for its creation. Trade agreements must address this. Delivery of medical services has become a buracracy adding to the cost. The governments \$1000.00 hammer equate to a \$50.00 asprine. As long as people can walk into an emergency room for any reason and get free care, everyone who pays will be paying extra to cover it. There is no reason to buy insurance if you can get the service for free. The indigent need care, but there are far too many (some illegally here) who take advantage of it because they can. Governement should focus only on efforts that will reduce cost. Never a takeover and never force us to buy a product	FM/C
Limit dollars that can be awarded on malpractice cases.	TR
Make insurance competitive, Allow to purchase across state lines. Also, torte reform. Repeal Obamacare!	FM/TR/RP
move to a focus of preventative aid. Allow subsidies for fruits and vegetables, stop some subsidies to meat and dairy which cause many of our diseases; high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes. IF healthy food was a priority and made excessable to everyone national health costs would go down and quality of life would improve. work to end food deserts in low income areas. Our diet is why most americans are sick, if we dont change regulations to improve dietary standards we will continue to be a sick nation. keep funding to current care programs, change food regulations	LC
If you are over 65 and still pay for a major policy such as Blue Cross then they should be your primary carrier not Medicare. As it is now Medicare pays 80% while BC pays 10% after deductibles. If this were reversed we could save billions	Etc/C
Stop/Limit Malpractice Suits which adds 20% to the medical costs	TR
Obamacare is a start in the right direction, in that everyone will need to buy into a system in order to keep costs down overall and private insurers involved in the system. I also think Medicare , and Social security, should phase in some type of means test, in the sense that the Medicare Part B premium should be raised, according to the previous year's income. Social security should also be means tested, based on previous year's income, with people over a certain amount getting a percentage less than average. The more malpractice costs are reigned in, the braver physicians will be in deciding not to schedule tests for patients when they truly believe nothing additional will be gained from the tests.	ACA/MR
repeal McCarran-Ferguson Act (1945)	C
require medical insurance for all individuals; end 'for profit' medical insurance companies; follow Norway's example in providing health care to citizens; tax high calorie/sugar junk food such as sodas at a higher rate than other food items; place a federal tax on cigarettes, since some states, especially VA, have a very low state tax	SP/Etc/LC
tort reform	TR

There is no single easy answer to the question. But if the Supreme Court overturns the Obamacare health care plan, that will be a huge step in the right direction. Then an overall national healthcare policy needs to be formulated by "those in the know" to guide this country's healthcare strategy should be formulated	RP/ C
We passed a law a couple of years ago: the PPAC act (Patient Protection Affordable Care Act- 2010). It's far from perfect, but we should work with it and try to improve it	C
There are two major factors that can be attacked to get health care costs under control . The first on is fraud. I think that we can pull people from other unproductive agencies and form an in depth audit group that can develop scenarios and programs to efficiently audit claims. I suggest this should be organized by in state groups. In other words, groups whose sole responsibility is the claims from that state. Their job is to root out and investigate medical billing fraud. Secondly, I believe that there should be limitations on damages in the case of bad medical practice. I think many of the extra tests arranged and that bog down the system and raise costs are for self protection rather than good medicine	C/TR
Since prices for services, medication and procedures vary greatly across the nation and even between hospitals, I believe that standardized pricing should be put in place. Standardized pricing would be beneficial to patients as well as insurance companies	C
Support the new Health Care Law. According to the CBO, it will save money in the long run	ACA
get government totally out of health care	FM
Repeal Obama Care. Then... unleash medical and medical insurance from regulation and restrictive insurance laws that prevent competition across state lines, etc. . Then...get out of the way and let the market correct the cost	RP/FM
Pay for medical school with an 8-10 year commitment to work for Medicare at reduced wages	Etc
Set limits on malpractice suites	TR
Eat right, exercise and avoid stress	LC
Open up insurance companies country wide. Also, remove many of the many hinderances that cause extra barriers for doctors to make decisions not insurance companies. Eliminate waste!	FM
Allow interstate sales. Limit law suit awards	FM/C
add a single payer system- our health care is so expensive because it is based on profit based insurance--there is no point to it-- it doesn't produe anything material or intellectual	SP
Allow cross plans to go across state lines to allow for more options	FM
I think the answer is very simple. Allow medical insurance companies to trade across state lines, (nationwide). This will create competition, efficiency, and lower health care costs as well as premiums. Thank you	FM
Tort reform for medical malpractice claims. Defensive medicine is expensive, and may represent up to 30% of the total medical costs. Enhanced staffing and funding for FDA to decrease the time needed for marketing improved drugs and new medical devices.	TR
I know this all too well, I worked in medical field. Start charging those who sue for frivolous suits. Then they'll limit their lawsuits to those actually responsible. We had a patient who chose not to have treatment through us for a suspicious breast lump. When she finally did go to her family doctor it was too late - and she sued all our docs and our nurse practitioner for failing to treat her... but she'd cancelled her appointment and told us she was going elsewhere for treatment. We didn't pay anything in judgement, but the costs for all the hours of legal representation for all our docs and NP were astounding, and borne by our insurer. Wonder why malpractice insurance goes up? Because of cases like this	TR
Scrap Obama Care	RP
Government should get out of the medical care/insurance business. Subsidizing anything causes the price to go up	FM
Cut bogus claims/identify filers closely	In
PLEASE SUPPORT, SUPPORT, SUPPORT OBAMACARE	ACA
We need universal health care like the Europeans. There is no other viable solution	SP

Place a cap on expenditures for people who smoke, drink or live unhealthy lifestyles. Easy to say, hard to implement	LC
Medical insurance companies should be able to cross state lines to get larger pools of customers & cut overhead to lower costs	FM
interstate medical insurance	FM
Free Market (Sell insurance across state lines). Get the government out.	FM
Single payer systm---expansion of Medicare which is working fine. If additional coverage wanted purchase on own	SP
Remove government regulations, doctors are professionals, they know how to do their job. Remove the piles of paperwork they have to fill out everyday and you allow them to work more efficiently. Also, stop the frivolous lawsuits or cap the damages allowed	FM
Push for Single Payer Healthcare which will take profit out of the insurance/medical industry which wants to keep people sick in order to make a profit. Also, need to allow alternative medicine to be covered because it is more effective and treats the root causes of disease rather than just the symptoms. Organic, non-GMO, food will also keep people healthy - need to push labeling of GMO products	SP
socialized medicine	SP
tort reform, allow insurance companies to compete across state lines, educate about value of high deductible policies	TR
Other developed countries spend about half of what we do on medical costs as a % of GDP. Their solution: single payer.	SP
More control over insurance companies and implementation of standardized medical costs	C/ In
single payer health insurance	SP
get rid of obama care to the curb and the amount of time it takes for the FDA to accept/deny new drugs/procedures/devices. By the time the FDA approves something, the medical industry has at least 2 more witing approval	RP
What a question! No easy answers. As a registered nurse, I cannot see a solution as long as we keep expecting to live as long as possible. Ethical issues for the very young and very old are all part of the decision-making process. When do we stop treating someone who is so very ill (from neonates to frail elderly)? Healthy People 2010 has wonderful goals; how do we work as a nation to achieve them? More incentives for prevention of disease is a great place to start...rewards of some sort...benefits of staying fit for as long as possible. Again, no easy solutions when our citizens have the freedom to damage their health and receive all the perks of medical technology	LC
Let the market compete. Those that prove to have access, quality and affordability will prevail in the market.	FM
Give Obamacare the boot. 2. Curb medical malpractice awards to a reasonable amount. 3. Allow drug companies to keep their proprietary formulations for a longer period of time so that they can lower their average cost to develop and bring to market their drugs. This will reduce the cost of the brand name drugs. 4. Require all people who use an emergency room to pay a nominal fee. No person should get medical care at the expense of everyone who does pay. 4. Reduce the burden Medicaid imposes on state and local governments. Again, people should be expected to be responsible for their own health care. Why should government (those who pay taxes) be responsible for people who would rather spend their money on the latest technology craze, etc	RP
tort reform, define difference between insurance and pre-paid health care, more competitiveness in insurance nationally, prices for groups and individuals to be similar not excessively different, i.e. similar price for the same procedure at the same medical facility without all the write offs/write downs that end up soaking the individual without "insurance"	TR
I favor programs that encourage patients to make lifestyle changes that would improve their health. a. national tort reform law restricting malpractice recoveries to clear cases of negligence and not just post facto determinations of what might have been done; (2) nationwide exchange for health insurance purchases; (3) income-related medicare premiums	LC/TR

Scrap obama's health care--Start over !	RP
Go with a National Plan that EVERYBODY is on including the Military, Congress and the President! No exceptions. Next time give us a bigger box to write in, too	C
First, what we don't want is an appointed board of unelected bureaucrats telling doctors how to practice medicine. Medical decisions should be made by educated, trained physicians in consult with their patients and families. At the very least, boards of caring, non government employed, physicians should be involved in decisions involving patient care. Second, if anyone is truly interested in controlling costs, there needs to be tort reform. My opinion is that there are many lawyers who look at medical malpractice suits as a road to easy street. Consequently there are many tests done in an attempt to "cover the doctors butts". Many are low yield, but without them, an obscure missed diagnosis can result in financial ruin. This may not be "malpractice", but could be a mistake in judgement for which the physician suffers. Thus every conceivable test is often performed, even if negative results are expected. Tort reform is a must, but good luck with all of the trial lawyers in and influencing government. This small window makes this a difficult format with which to work. Good medical care can be expensive. Some tests, such as CT examination, can yield valuable information. In the "old days" , for instance, a patient with severe abdominal pain might have undergone an "exploratory laparotomy" as no such imaging procedure, which might have given a definitive answer to the etiology of the pain was available. Advanced tests and treatments cost money to develop and use. Rationing??? Should those who have paid the most into Medicare (some contributing for 50 years of their working lives) now be asked to forgo treatment? This will be an important debate, and may not be solvable, but will probably be implemented. One way to help control costs is to say "medicine as it exists in 2012 is as good as it ever needs to be", and stop all development of new diagnostic tests, therapies, etc. That is enough to chew on for now	TR
There has to be some Fed and State regulation, maybe regionalizing costs of services would help, this would make it competitive. Certainly paying five dollars or more for an aspirin is outrageous	C
While I do not have the answer or answers about how to address the United States' rising health care costs, I don't believe that the way the current administration addressed the issue was the right way. The President and his Congress and House (at the time) forced changes in place without appropriate due diligence, research and communication to the American People. My answer is, for now, that more research needs to be done to learn what can/should be done to address the high costs, as well as making sure coverage is available so that Emergency Rooms are not filled with the uninsured. And, that consumers understand the benefits to healthy lifestyles, healthier habits which, in turn, will reduce the need for medical services. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.	LC
We should support Obama care. Other states are standing behind it and so should we	ACA
Affordable care act!	ACA
We really do need public backed health care that makes sure there are no loopholes for someone to fall through... Plus, maybe its time to cap the profits made by drug companies and companies who supply medical equipment and supplies and hospitals. Hospitals are mostly "for profit", which gives them carte blanche to overcharge people who are in need of their services and have no choice but to use them. (To say nothing of the fact that many are scared or desperate when they are in need of hospitals). And yet we let people profit from these circumstances. And greed always takes over, so they profit wayyy more than necessary.	ACA
Monitor Medicaid recipient ER visits. I would submit they have non-emergent visits to the ERs. These types of patients would best be served in an ambulatory setting that does not involve the high costs associated with ER visits. If they continue to abuse the system, there needs to be some type of penalty. Also, give ERs the right to refuse these patients and/or refer them to another source. Places such as Patient Care, Urgent Cares, etc. refuse these patients without making them pay up front; therefore, these patients misuse the ERs	MR
Encourage the private sector and provide them with real incentives to address the problem and work to reduce costs. Reward performance! We also need to encourage large numbers of people to choose the medical field as a profession. We are going to need lots of doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals in the future. And, we need to also create incentives and rewards for Americans who by living a healthy lifestyle reduce demand on the system resulting in savings. A program similar to insurance companies providing rewards for good drivers, etc. It will require a systemic approach with government creating the environment whereby the private sector will be encouraged to reduce costs and the American people will be encouraged to lead healthier lifestyles	MR

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All American should be required to have some form of health insurance	ACA
Tort reform will help a bit (limit on doctor liability); but the real issue is to find revenue to help pay for a system that has at its core, an acceptable standard of medical care for all citizens. To get this, we need to reform the tax code with an ax; not a micrometer. Plus, we will need a value-added tax (similar to European countries) with revenue that targets medical care and long term health costs for the elderly. Without any empirical data, I suggest a start point at a 20% flat tax (some exceptions for those with income below some level) and a 20% VAT. I understand some will argue that this is regressive but it's better to tax money when it's spent than when it's earned. The Europeans have been doing this for years and no one complains because it eliminates the requirement to save a couple million dollars for retirement income because your medical care is provided essentially free once you reach retirement age. This is a huge selling point. You don't have to accumulate so much wealth because you will have been paying into an entitlement system while working. I could go on but this is enough for now.	TR
Stop the fraud in CMS. This is a SIGNIFICANT PORTION of the CMS budget!!! 2) stop paying hospitals more money for procedures done by hospital owned MDs versus independent MDs. This disparity is unfair and destroying the independent physician. 3) have MDs justify diagnostic exams and surgeries. Excessive imaging of patients of patients is costly and dangerous to the patient. 4) reward the best MDs with more money. 6) stop the waste, everything the government is involved costs more than the private sector. 6) malpractice litigation reform is critical. It is a reason for excessive imaging and surgeries. This is CRITICAL!!!	TR
end abortion and end obama care	RP
Repeal the affordable health care act in toto. Implement meaningful reforms on healthcare that move it toward a market-based approach	RP/FM
Create incentives for pre-tax health expense accounts. Create law to allow the account to rollover to following years. Create a plan than when using a certain percentage of the taxpayers own health account, insurance rates are affected in favor of the account holder. Make it so people benefit from saving, investing and paying for their own health benefits	Etc
Introduce compulsory medical insurance	Etc
I think the malpractice costs are out of hand. There should be ceilings established on punitive settlements as well serious fines imposed for frivolous suits. Why do drugs cost more in the US than in other countries?	TR
cap all medical costs on every procedure!!!! Cap malpractice payouts! Hospital and clinics can not buy new equipment unless they have cash to pay for it. No cosmetic remodeling in Hospitals or clinic. Get back to basic appearance not show case the place. Be able to afford to keep the staff you have and train them instead of hiring new personnel for new technology at a higher salary!	C
The main reason for increased health cost is the profit motive driven by the insurance companies who control patients, doctor, politicians, and eventually our entire health system. Remedy; we need to take the overwhelming profit motive out of health. Health should be a right equal to clean air and water, police protection, and human rights. Access shouldn't be based on ones ability to pay for it. we come into this world healthy. Our society have the responsibility to maintain each of us in a healthy manner	C
Make drug purchasing by the govt competitive. Pay Medicare and Medicaid providers adequately so they can afford to stay in these programs. Limit liability for doctors.	MR/TR
defund Obamacare and pass legislation allowing state to state competition and tort reform to lower prices	RP/TR
Adopt the Obama Plan and move towards a single Payor system...that is not Socialism, but Humanism !	ACA
Limit malpractice suits	TR

Begin with basic Health Care for everyone in a single payer system - a medicare for all plan, moved down three years at a time to give us time to ramp up training for all medical personel. face the reality that HEALTH CARE IS BY DEFINITION A NOT_FOR_PROFIT occupation. Get rid of the majority of "permissions" for any normal problem, INCLUDE everyone so that hospitals have no excuses for padding the bills for those who must pay "cash." Disabuse Physicians of the idea that they are going to be wealthy, no matter how good or rare they are, alter the legal framework for lawsuits, and ramp up physical visits to all hospitals, offices, clinics to insist on absolute adherence to best practices. Then spend real money on ENOUGH nurses etc. to acutally care for patients in and out of the hospital, and pay, in general, by the disease or proceedure, not for each "thing" or medical person. In short, dump the "for profit system" it stinks and it always will. I'd rather have the government overseeing my care than any insurance company. All our good medical care for normal things is from the services, or the Va or some other Gov. Orginazation since they don't keep trying to profit. Than just admit that Health care is like food, and fund it. We have ridiculously low "paid" taxes for all but the very poor anyway	SP
Double patent life for cures (as opposed to treatments), minimize or eliminate Obama Care, re-think alternatives to medicare which will be unaffordable after 2017 and, think about wellness initiatives	RP/TR
Read T.R. Reid's book: The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care. All of the answers are there	Etc
Health care providers and insurance companies should work to standardize costs and reimbursements for procedures. It is crazy to see a proviers cost so high and insurance reimbursement rate so low. An obvious problem	In
focus on fraud and abuse; pay for performance measures; encourage cost efficient alternatives such as home care rather than acute hospitalization or long term institutionalization	FM
Elminate the problem. Healthcare and drugs are a bandaid. Prevention is a cure. There is overwhelming evidence that good nutrition prevents an untold number of food-related diseases. What if we could pair each person with a nutritionist and ensure they have the ability to obtain fresh fruits, vegetables and grains	LC
Limit malpractive suits and allow medical insurance across state lines for more competative rates	TR/FM
Get the government out of health care. Rather than nationalized heath care let the government have nationalized malpractice insurance. Let insurance companys sell policys nationally. Let the states manage Medicare	FM
America is being slowly poisoned by food processing and fast food consumption akin to chain smoking, and it is a major cause of bad health. Regulate the causes of bad health, let the market dictate the provision of health care. Educate Americans about how to be healthy starting at an early age by developing new and improved curricula at the earliest possible age and give them the necessary operators manual for the human body that drives better choices and healthier lifestyles. Tax the smokers and the junk food industries and expand what has been done with the tobacco industries on all the other industries that promote bad health	LC
Medicare Part D, they could stop sending out written statements every month with a list of what a patient paid for prescriptions, it's usually three pages and a waste of time and money	MR
I wish I had the wisdom to say what should be done to curb medical costs. Just because a new drug or procedure is out there does not mean it has to be used when a old standby will do the job. Congress does need to address malpractice costs. Some states have takent action in this area. A federal law or regulation to existing law developed a long the lines of the most cost effective state action needs to be passed. We the US people need to except that medicade & medicare can not & should not provide every thing in the medical field. Do take action on Obama care with out throwing the baby out with the wash water. Do get Dr. & other medical people who run clinics involved in telling the government how to provide basic cost effective health care	TR
Kill Obamacare - Instead of large Malpractice Awards, take away parctioners license for a period of time	RP
control medical malpractice costs	TR
tort reform to limit malpractice compensation. many medical costs are results of high malpractice insurance costs	TR
insurance companies should embrace alternative methods of care. Naturopathic doctors do great things when sometimes MDs have no clue. There is no gut feeling anymore because the MDs just test and test and test don't show everything	Etc

<p>i am a family physician, trained at Duke, and have practiced for 2 years in canada; did a geriatric training in scotland. i am now on medicare. it is highly confusing, even to a health professional, especially part D. it seems like a give away to multiple insurance companies with the government footing the bill. my experience with my parents at end of life proved medicare to be easily manipulated in order for all types of caregivers and services to be paid, even when not requested or needed. it looked like health professionals were scamming the system. from my experiences as a physician in canada, scotland, and for 30 years in the u.s., i am convinced that the best care and the most cost effective solution is for a single payor. we can take the best of the health plans that are working in other developed countries and, for much less than we are paying now, we can have better outcomes and coverage for all out people. do you know that families who are not already on government (veterans, active duty military, federal employees, medicare and medicaid recipients) are paying \$800 - \$1000 + PER MONTH for health insurance. that is just premium, not including copays, deductibles. this is why so many are uninsured and why so many bankruptcies result from health care needs OF THE INSURED. this is not the country i grew up in. we have changed. i hope we can find our hearts and take care of each other. the churches and charities cannot do it</p>	<p>SP</p>
<p>Put a limit on medical injury settlements, allow the winner of legal suits to sue the suit instigator for bringing a frivolous lawsuit, publish an approved list of recommended tests for diagnosed conditions to avoid overtesting by doctors and hospitals that are just trying to cover their butts from law suits, get the federal government out of the healthcare business, allow hospitals to refuse medical treatment to illegal aliens</p>	<p>TR</p>
<p>reinstate public health hospitals for the indigent</p>	<p>Etc</p>
<p>Let capitalism control the insurance market with over pricing prevented by using credible doctor oversight. Products should be produced within our country - not from foreign sources</p>	<p>FM</p>
<p>Restructure the cost by limiting the amount of malpractice thus reducing the payment of insurance. Allow for flexibility and competition in the medical and drugs fields</p>	<p>FM</p>
<p>pattern our healthcare after switzerland</p>	<p>Etc</p>
<p>Either tax excess profits from medical companies to encourage lower prices, or, allow everyone to enroll in medicare that does a pretty good job of controlling costs. In the later, folks would still pay a premium to receive those benefits. I believe this helps Medicare remain solvent, by allowing younger, less expensive workers into the system, and, uses the collective bargaining power of Medicare to continue to negotiate lower costs</p>	<p>MR</p>
<p>Either tax excess profits from medical companies to encourage lower prices, or, allow everyone to enroll in medicare that does a pretty good job of controlling costs. In the later, folks would still pay a premium to receive those benefits. I believe this helps Medicare remain solvent, by allowing younger, less expensive workers into the system, and, uses the collective bargaining power of Medicare to continue to negotiate lower costs</p>	<p>MR</p>
<p>get rid of the lawyers</p>	<p>Etc</p>
<p>There is nothing practical that can be done</p>	<p>Etc</p>
<p>Curb medical malpractice costs. That will help considerably.</p>	<p>TR</p>
<p>I believe that medical costs could be brought down by limiting/restricting malpractice suits. Both hospitals and doctors are having to guard against outlandish suits by carrying large and costly insurance. These costs are what drives up medical care cost along with the cost of caring for those who do not have health care insurance</p>	<p>TR</p>
<p>limit malpractice awards - and severely limit the lawyer awards</p>	<p>TR</p>
<p>Curb malpractice suits, limit the number of tests run to only what the doctor really thinks will help vice what could cover a slim to non-chance just in case he/she gets sued. Separate testing facilities from the doctors requesting testing</p>	<p>TR</p>
<p>Get rid of Obamacare</p>	<p>RP</p>
<p>model our system with Canada</p>	<p>SP</p>
<p>The cost of regulating health care is a large percentage of the cost. This problem is one of the few where Congress can do something constructive. We have far too many checkers checking the checkers - many layers of high-paid people making sure that no one is cheating. Surely there are simpler more effective ways of doing this, although Congress is not noted for its creativity</p>	<p>C</p>
<p>Tough call without options. Address the malpractice costs...set realistic limits. Define a program that is good for all to include Congress. They must have the same plan.</p>	<p>TR/Etc</p>

Get the Federal Govt out of our health care	FM
stop the stupid law suits that are making lawyers rich. What about the cost add for illegals	TR
If we(USA)spend twice as much on health care as we do food,how did we become a nation of obese people,with a spike in the number of cases of diabetes? And not all citizens of this country have access to health care. Need to somehow offer more "preventative health care" but I really don't know how to do that. I know my health insurance covers more preventative care now,than it did before. It's a money making "business" health care is and we pay whatever the market dictates,and if we cannot afford we either do without or face bankruptcy.	FM/LC
Curb fribolous lawsuits that increase insurance for providers	TR/FM
single payer system/ socialized medicine	SP
The government should not get involved with this matter	FM
Cap malpractice limit salaries of health insurance exectives salaries and bonuses	TR
Review the Health care Systems of other Western Nations and adopt the best one. We need an efficient	Etc
Rein in trial lawyers, allow cross state insurance companies to compete, repeal Obamacare, get the FDA to move faster on new medicines, & lighten up the paper workload on health care providers	RP
Tort reform. Wellness banks. You shouds be able to use some of the money that is not used in health care	TR
Sell insurance across state lines, tort reform, crack down on frivolous medical malpractice suits. Somehow regulate pharmaceutical companies from lobbying doctors to sell high cost prescriptions when generics work fine but still let the free market work. Maybe somehow incentivize doctors to use the best, but still cost effective drugs	FM/TR
Keep prescriptions costs in line without robbing the patients!!! Since I have Humana, I cannot take advantage of any of VIMPAT's manutacterer's discount. This whole prescription thing is unfail to the middle class! ALL prescription meds should be available at least one year after they are put on the market. I have seriously considered going to Canada for script refills! Base these high costs perhaps on an individual's GAI? I wish I had an intelligent answer of what to do. All I do know for sure is that I MISS TRICARE!!	In
tort reform to decrease dr insurance rates	TR
Health care IMO is a basic human right. If you as my representative continue to support for profit health model then we will continue as we are now. We need to come together and embrace Medicaid for all.Health care should be guaranteed cradle to grave. No matter our political allegiance we all have accidents, we all get sick, we all bleed the color red when we are wounded. Without equal access to healthcare we will all pay for thecost of healthcare treated in the emergency rooms of our local hospitals. Given the limited space to answer your question I can only say that I wonder if you really care	MR
NOT SURE: IN VA WE HAVE INSURANCE CARRIERS THAT OFFER INSURANCE TO PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS BUT THE CATCH IS THEY CHARGE MORE FOR A MONTHLY PREMIUM THEN THE AVERAGE PERSON EARNS A MONTH ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF VA-STOP LETTING INSURANCE COMPANIES AND DRUG COMPANIES STEAL FROM US. AND THAT IS WHAT IT IS. DRS & HOSPITALS ALIKE CHARGE MORE FOR CARE THAN THEY REALLY NEED TO. DEPENDS ON WHAT KIND OF INSURANCE YOU HAVE. ANYWAY THERE IS NO ONE CURE FOR THE COST TODAY. COST MUST BE CONTROLLED FROM ALL ASPECTS OF THE MEDICAL FIELD. EXAMPLE: INSURANCE COMPANIES, HOSPITALS, DOCTORS, LAWYERS(LAW SUITES) AND SO ON	In/Etc
Get the government out and let doctors due business	FM
Referencing Diane Sawyers expose on the huge differences in costs of similar medical procedures from hospital to hospital why not investigate the exorbitant costs. It cannot merely be dismissed as rising drug costs	Etc
have a single payer health system so the companies do not make a profit o peoples health. People do not ask to be sick	SP
Curtail handouts to other countries who are not our friends,and use this money to fund programs that will help our tax paying citizens	Etc
keep the government out of it	FM

Limit malpractice liability in courts, as some states have done, but "encourage" medical boards to police themselves. Also, open enrollment to all state's medical insurance plan, not just a person's home state. This will encourage competition. DO NOT limit a person's care or a company's ability to research technology	TR/FM
I would require all people to pay a pre pay to obtain any type of medical care. This would eliminate the people who use medical care for any minor issue. I would also charge higher premiums for at risk people where the risk is self imposed--smoking, obese, drug and alchol dependence	Etc
Single Payer	SP
Reducing costs in education to encourage more to enter the medical field would be a start. Vigorous testing prior to licensing and periodical through out ones career to weed out the incompetant drs leading to a reduction of law suits enabling INs companies to reduce cost of medical malpractice. Limiting awards in lawsuits. Drug companies need to be limited to the amt of time until their drugs can be as generics	Etc
make hospitals responsible for the cost of their errors (e.g., Cleveland Clinic readmissions reduction efforts, with careful evaluation of release readiness and post-release patient followup); streamline insurance paperwork so doctors don't have to hire more clerks than nurses; penalize hospitals with high readmission rates and poor followup; reduce the 30% administrative costs of the US health care system; get people off junk food and on their feet - this is a systemic problem that requires many issues to be sensibly addressed. Example: \$150k for a liver transplant; \$200k for followup treatment of a systemic infection caused by overdosing with immunosuppressive medications and poor followup - the hospital made money on the errors, so why try to avoid errors?	Etc
Allow interstate competition of insurance plans, pass TORT reforms to limit malpractice awards, quit providing "free" hospital ER care to all - the ER is for emergencies not colds and other common ailments. If someone shows up with a non lifethreatening emergency, turn them away to a doctors office where they will pay. Quit turning hospitals into "free" clinics	FM/TR
Medical industry regulation but not public healthcare	C
The problem is very complex, and I don;t have an easy answer nor have I seen one. The present free market system based mainly on insurance plans and employment clearly does not work well. I don't think it's efficient or cost effective to base one's medical care through employment, whether through insurance or otherwise. But how to effectively change this is not an easy question to answer. I'd like to see how the present health care law (if not overtuned by the court) plays out for a few years. I believe also we need more serious discussion about a federally run health insurance system. As a former provider I am well aware of the problems with beauracracy whether or not through Gov't, or private insurers. I do feel that for any plan to be cost effective everyone has to pay in, either through taxes, penalties, etc. We are all in this together, I suffer when your house burns down even if mine does not, hence the support for a fire department, police department, educational system, sanitation system, etc. Should a health system be any different?	Etc
Public campaigns (like the Anti-Smoking) for patients not to request the most expensive procedures first, but only after other measures have been ruled out. (My daughter is a doctor and is daily faced with patients demanding e.g. MRIs without first going with more conservative measures in the face of non-life threatening conditions. Secondly, to educate families to have discussions about Advanced Directives. Too often a guilty family member will insist on prolonging life, at the pain of the patient, at any cost. I am 78 and have instructed my family that I do not wish to be kept alive at tremendous cost and suffering unless a full recovery is possible. End-of-life costs are out of control.	LC
I am not very knowledgeable on this subject but it seems capping malpractice awards could be a start. Not allowing the use of high cost emergency room services for nonemeregcies. If you don't have insurance use a free clinic. New advances in medical care is good, let competition and free capitalism handle cost	TR
Subsidize the research that drug companies do and cap their percent of profits all drugs. Negotiate contracts with the drug companies that guarantee them a "kick-back" if they keep drug costs at a certain level/percentage....like contractors who finish a project early. Penalize the drug companies if they exceed the negotiated percentage/cost. All citizens should have to have medical insurance just like everyone who drives a car must have car insurance	C
Tort reform would help	TR

Please disregard my first response, since I only put my name in the space for ideas. These are my ideas: Cap or limit lawsuit and malpractice settlements. Keep healthcare in the private sector and allow companies to compete. Allow individuals to choose or even decline coverage. End the requirement for Emergency Rooms to treat everyone who comes to them no matter what the ailment. Emergency rooms are often backed up with people who come with colds, nausea, and non-emergency ailments that should be treated at a doctor's office or a clinic, but they come to the emergency room because they will not be turned away or will not have to pay. Do not turn medical care over to government agencies	FM
Work to get billing and Medicare payments in line, list prices are high - payments are low and the paperwork goes back and forth with turn downs and responses. The admin burden is tremendous. Get billing and payments close together and eliminate most of the admin burden. Maybe many of the admin clerks can retrain and become nursing staff and relieve that shortage	MR
Universal health care and reforming patent law to increase availability of generics	SP
National publicly funded healthcare system, like in Canada, Britain, and France. Raise taxes simultaneously.	SP
Gradually extend Medicare to lower age groups. In countries with single payers, administrative costs are 10-15%, in US with private ins companies = 25%. (Pew Trust stats... a much more reputable source than McKinsey. a. Means testing for elderly, 2) Diet education on a par w/ smoking education. Heart disease is #1 killer in US, 1 in 3 people will die from it, expensively, and it's 100% preventable by diet. Obesity, diabetes, cholesterol, some cancers - also preventable. 3) Malpractice ceilings	SP/LC
So much medical care is delaying the inevitable (death) and should not be paid for by government or insurance companies. Pain control we should provide. No one will beat death and we are killing our future trying to do just that.	Etc
Allow insurance companies to offer services across state lines, let the free market govern costs	FM
Physicians are overcharging for medical supplies, etc. which are used on patients--as in, a cotton swab (\$6), and a Sharpie marker (\$70). Itemized statements from physicians must be accurate, and there must be some accountability for costs	C
Flat fee for doctor's visits without all the add-ons for each procedure	C
"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"...we need health practitioners to ACTIVELY promote healthy lifestyles instead of treating symptoms with medications. Take away doctors' incentives to push drugs - replace with honest truth about diet & exercise. Reward doctors that can show positive changes with their patients' health	LC
purchase health insurance across state lines, repeal Obamacare, limit frivolous lawsuits	FM/ RP
try to limit the price of medications, why are they cheaper in Canada?	Etc
Put a curb on pharmaceutical costs. Pharmacy manufacturers are making way too much profit at voter's expense. Reign in litigation on medical law suits to drive down the cost of medical liability insurance. Create medical professions that can treat most people for most illnesses without having the high costs of medical school	C
Go forward with the Affordable Care Act. My personal preference is for Single Payer for everyone. a. Proactively reward healthy habits. 2) Create a Medicare and Medicaid review board to track down and arrest fraud violators. 3) Reward practitioners who perform surgical procedures where no complications requiring additional care is needed. 4) Ensure that all Americans are covered by health care. Assuming SCOTUS does not invalidate Obamacare, Congress needs to work to further improve upon this existing legislation. I am in favor of a Single Payer system akin to Medicare	C
Reform the Medicare Payment Formula. Medical costs are based on the discount providers give Medicare, typically 3 - 4 times Medicare Rate. Rates are adjusted for cuts in Reimbursement rates made by Congress. It is a game!	RM
I think there should be competition between insurance companies across state lines. We could not join the Costco Insurance Plan because of some Virginia Law. I was then forced to be a one person group. My husband had Veterans Benefits but I did not. There should be more preventive medicine and natural remedies made available to the purchasers of insurance by that company. The FDA should investigate and endorse natural cures as well as medicine for cures. I do not like taking a lot of medicine because of the destruction to other parts of the body. I think the companies in this country could help solve this problem if the government would get out of the way. Also all the frivolous lawsuits are causing prices to go up. Some type of intervention in the litigation process would be beneficial if done correctly	FM/TR
Contain malpractice costs with limits	TR
Quit trying to reinvent the wheel. Give us a national health plan that mirrors the one Congress has. It would be the largest group and lowest cost plan available.	Etc

control malpractice	TR
Insurance companies are for Profit. WE all worry about the profits that oil companies make. Is there any control on profit insurance companies make?? Right now insurance companies tell the doctors what to prescribe, what tests can be done, what procedures can be done and how often you can see a doctor, go to a clinic or mental health institute. Why do they have that much control as well as determine who they will insure in the first place. Power companies are regulated over rate increases, what about the insurance companies? If you do anything to they don't like they will drop you because they know they are powerful and control you in so many ways. How did they get this way? IF that is known then reverse that path	In
You have to remove or limit the profit motive. That sounds anti-capitalist, but the irony is that health care costs are killing our ability to start small businesses. I'm 34 and paying 12k for me, my wife and child to have a horrible plan. I could be using that money to buy things for my business or taking more risks, but I can't. To top it all off, I'm extremely fearful of using the plan because I'm scared they will increase the costs even more. The only thing keeping me going right now is the Obama legislation because it prevents the insurance companies from dropping me. If that gets repealed and I lose my insurance, then I'm going to have to shut down and work for a large company that can provide insurance for my family. What happened to the idea that small businesses drive the economy?	In
Curb malpractice awards to reasonable amounts.	TR
Limit % of profit that the manufacturer can receive on the product. If it cost the manufacturer 5.00 to make, don't charge the customer 100.00 for the medication, there has to be some type of control. Don't let manufacturer's of the drug companies to make a monopoly of the Industry when patients are having to pay the consequences for not being able to afford medicine or healthcare	C
do away with "ambulance chaser" lawyers	Etc
I don't really have a clue. However, the more involved the Federal Government is, the less I believe that any good outcome will result. I am almost to the point of saying that people receiving Medicare and Medicaid should be allowed a maximum life time amount of benefits and then let them shop for the medical care that best fits their needs.	MR
Abandon ObamaCare and all preps for it. Tort reform to prevent the lawyers from driving up the costs.	RP
Costs for a hospital room, no matter whether it is ICU, PRIVATE, SEMI-PRIVATE, OR A WARD should not vary more than \$100 per day, in any part of the U.S. 2. The same idea should apply to the charges for use of an operating room by a Hospital. 3. All Doctors that become specialists in specific types of surgeries, should not charge more than \$500 difference in any area of the U.S. 3. In other words establish some National standardized fees for services. 4. Do the same for medications. 5. We see a partial form of standardization now with MEDICARE, so expanding and standardizing all the various costs should not be that hard to do. Why should someone pay a total of \$5,000 for Gall Bladder removal in Norfolk and pay \$12,000 in Los Angeles???	C
Let Medicare negotiate drug prices with drug companies. Allow import of Canadian drugs. Make Medicare the coverage for all ages. a. revamp emergency rooms in order that people seeking general care (who often show up at emergency rooms) can be seen in a non-emergency environment 2) put an end to frivolous malpractice lawsuits 3) reform prescription drug pricing in light of excessive advertising, and profits by drug companies	MR
Thank you for this opportunity! I have free health care and the medical profession has taken advantage of it to the maximum. I will only be treated after every test applicable to the ailment has been performed. I see more waste in medical care than necessary. You figure out the answer	Etc
TARP reform, Get Govt out of the medical business, Stop providing general medical service to illegal aliens	FM/Etc
As much as people don't want to hear it : rationed, single-payer care.	SP
limit malpractice awards with a cap process; once pharmaceutical companies have recovered development costs then lower cost of meds to what it costs to produce them plus a reasonable profit; if the cost of medical school was lower than the amount of student loans would be lower and doctors fees would be lower	TR
I'm not a medical expert. I ask a panel of doctors and insurance analysts from across the political spectrum to make recommendations based on their experiences/observations. Specifically, they should be asked: "If we can't fund everything, what should we fund in priority order?"	Etc

We need single payer regulation - just like Medicare - or like the Health Insurance provided to Federal employees and Congress	SP
Eliminate Obamacare! The restrictions it has placed on flexible spending accounts is already costing me more money!	RP
heavy emphasis on preventative care programs and healthy incentives	LC
Tort reform and allow interstate commerce on insurance carriers.	TR/FM
Health Insurance for everyone, mandatory	ACA?
There should be insurance premium incentives for those of us who eat healthy and keep up our vaccines, dental exams etc...Those who are overweight, but still not ill should be offered incentives to lose weight, along with a support system. Those who refuse and continue deadly health habits, such as smoking and illegal drug abuse (prescription or illegal) should bear a higher premium. Those who are poor should have proper nutrition and shopping advice, community support ie...classes from nutritionists, nurses on prevention. I saw a documentary on a LA dentist with a bus who gives free dental care to poor children. I personally want to get involved to be a part of these types of solutions for our country. I am a big believer in hard work and education, but I am appalled at the lack of information, and or the laziness of some citizens in addressing their health, driving up costs for us all. I also believe in smaller urgent care facilities in less wealthy neighborhoods for preventative care, and hopefully keep non-emergency treatment out of our hospital emergency departments. Finally, I am very concerned about our medical staff having to give care to illegal immigrants (not legal)	LC
Nationalize Health Care	Etc
Get rid of the lawyers who are leeches on the system	Etc
freeze entitlements to 2006 levels; intensely pursue Medicare fraud	Etc
Eliminate all Government involvement in the medical market beyond the enforcement of contracts. Dollar Inflation is caused by the expansion of the money supply by the Federal Reserve Banking System; and inflation of medical costs are caused by government spending in the medical market	FM
Get the government out of the medical business - end all the subsidies, or at least start phasing them out. Government can ONLY drive up costs as it embeds inefficiencies into the system. Privatize the health care industry and stop mandating insurance. I'd even suggest banning insurance, as it only drives costs up. If people are responsible for their own health care, they will be much more selective about doctors' visits and will take better care of themselves, thus eliminating the burden on taxpayers. As a minimum, I don't think it is morally right to take property from citizens to pay for others' irresponsible behavior	FM
Put a Limited on the dollar amount malpractice and class actions suits	TR
The AMA recently published new directives to it's members which should reduce the # of unnecessary medical tests and procedures. CT scans and MRI exams have become too common. I do NOT believe medical malpractice costs are a major driving factor. The insurers are making large profits while still complaining about the injury awards. When you limit the amount of a malpractice award, you simply shift the future economic burden onto the public, via medicaid,welfare, and food stamps. You let the tortfeasor off the hook.Also, the federal GOVT should negotiate directly with the prescription companies to lower the federal cost	C/TR
Devise and install an efficient program to reduce fraud in billing to insurance companies, including Medicare	MR
Regulate the health ins. to allow an 8% profit and stop the CEO's from getting 200 to 400 million dollar bonuses over the bodies of others. I think Medicare should be the vehical for medical insurance for this country and let it be run by private insurance that is regulated by law on profit margin and bonuses. Hospitals and doctors are worked and paid by the insurance companies that have a health board made up of doctors, nurces and lay people that have access to international best practices for health issues through out the world. This could be paid by the Medicare Tax paid by every person who payes taxes with NO EXCEPTIONS. Everyone is required to be in and pay for this new medicare and everyone, young and old would have health care that works. If some people want something that is not on the best health practices list and still want it, they pay for it out of their pocket if they still want the prosedure or medication	MR/C
check for fraudulent charges	MR
Tort reform. Reduce the cost of malpractice insurance	TR

Universal health care! Come on	Etc
Malpractice claims should have a cap. Change the minds of the citizens not to consider everything negligence	TR
Regulate Insurance Costs	C
Medical cost are driven by two big factors. Cost of service and government regulations on what services must be provided. Limit the use of legal harrassment after health care is provided and eliminate obama care. People must be more accountable for their decisions. Less free health care at the emercengy room. Cover emergency care only unless the fee is paid by the customer. I could go on but that is enough	RP
concentrate on prevention	LC
We need to standardize diagnosis procededures (testing) for each medical problem. The cost of these procedures should also be standardized. This would protect doctors and assure patients that they are not being over charged.The same for treatment. Unique situations would be submitted for changes to the standard procededures	C
Reduce the amount a person can sue, thus reducing the cost of the malpractice premiums	TR
Tackle the issue in logical steps. The easiest is tort reform; just put some rational limits on awards and make it costly for some one to file an unreasonable lawsuit. Next establish what I would call "doc in box" facilities outside emergency rooms so the uninsured can still get care but not at emergency room prices. Next devote the resources necessary to sopt out of control fraud; especially in medicare and medicade. These should be fairly easy to do in the short term and then the spirally cost of treatments can be addressed	TR
Reform the tort laws and insurance rates that govern healthcare. Fraudulent lawsuits are part of the issue	TR
Dear Representative Rigell, My son is in his third year of medical school and he has seen many people abusing the system most of these people are the low/no income people getting free health care. Go talk to medical students that have been out in the field shadowing other doctors (3rd & 4th year students). Bottom line all people using any medical facility should have a co-pay unless they have the proper insurance that pays the co-pay. If a law was in place for co-pays maybe low income people would not abuse the "system". I am retired military and I pay a co-pay everytime I need to go to the doctors office.	Etc
Malpractice reform- US has 5% of world's popualtion, 94% lawsuits. there are some studies that indicate defensice medicine adds 30% to healthcare costs. Also, make insurance able to be purchased across state lines. Give individuals the same tax breaks as businesses. Encourage the use of HSA to encourage patients to have "skin in the game" and encourage personal repsonsibility for their own heath and costs associated	TR/FM
get rid of Obama care. 2. Tort reform. 3. get rid of the laws restricting the purchase of insurance across State lines	RP/TR
We need to look to the private sector for donations toward areas such as new drugs and procedures. This could help to offset the increase in medical costs. variety of factors embedded	Etc
nationalized healthcare-- modelled after either Kaiser or the VA	Etc
Put a cap on malpractice lawsuits	TR
As a lot of older folks know Mr. Rigell, Medicare is getting ripped off at every turn of the billing invoice. We could save millions if a tighter rein and oversight was put on the hospitals and Doctors who arbitrarily see MEDICARE as the golden goose and overcharge the dickens out of the program just because it's GOVT funded. There has to be a way that the "CARTE BLANCHE" OVERCHARGING can be eliminated. What's in place at the present time "IS NOT WORKING"... Thank you.	MR
insurance across state lines, tort reform, repeal Obamacare	FM/RP
limit medical litigation/damages for malpractice. Will have to provide more regulation of medical costs. medical fraudulent hotline	TR
Cut fraud and study what Germany and France do...their costs and benefits are much better than ours. Quit fighting health care reform and compromise on a solution. Single-payer may not be so bad. Third payer plans without incentives for people to save costs drive up costs	SP
Increase competition across state lines, cap malpractice lawsuits where lawyers get rich	FM/TR

Allow residents to shop out of state for health insurance coverage. Put a cap on medical malpractice costs. Continue aggressive pursuit of fraud in Medicare and Medicaid	FM/TR
Have clinic care for the uninsured, rather than having them go to the emergency room and have the tax payer cover the high cost and have those with serious problem waiting well minor issues are being dealt with by the staff	Etc
Nothing government tries to do too much as it is	FM
Eliminate medical fraud perpetrated by doctors, drug companies and hospitals	Etc
stop/curb overdiagnosis and overtreatment; mature malpractice law and policy	TR
Follow the UK rules, hell, follow just about any other mechanized countries health-care laws then there wouldn't even be a question like this! Personally I would also add that not a single sitting congressman/woman or Senator should have taxpayer funded health-care, all of you can certainly afford your own care while making it where your constituents can't. Those that have ... have custom tailored the laws to protect only themselves while the general population are either to stupid or blind to see. You Congressman Rigell, are part of the problem, not the solution	Etc
I think the costs should be distributed across a larger population and that we should properly account for the uninsured getting medical care at hidden costs. Additionally, we should work more to connect the patient with an understanding of the cost of their respective medical treatment options. I dont think that currently we have any understanding by patients of the cost of their treatment alternatives and the potential cost savings of ongoing medical care. I am also strongly in favor of doing away with pre-existing conditions as an option to deny insurance; being a cancer survivor, I would be unable to get insurance	ACA
First, put more responsibility in the hands of consumers. Second, let everyone create health savings accounts (if they wish). Third, let people have catastrophic care coverage in combination with health savings accounts. Fourth, get the federal government out of the health care business. Fifth, if there has to be some level of government health care move it to the states. Sixth, I like the Ryan proposal to give seniors a grant so they can shop for their own health care. Seventh, make health care portable from state to state and get it out of the hands of employers. Eighth, means test health care for those who can afford it on their own (for example federal retirees who already have health insurance through the federal government)	FM
Increase competition between doctors and hospitals, post costs when you walk in the door, make the charge fit the treatment, increase enrollment at med schools etc. etc. etc	FM
Universal health care (use model that works successfully in Japan)	Etc
The US Government should act in areas that the Constitution gives it the power to act, and stay out of areas where it shouldn't be involved. Take action on Tort reform and make it harder to bring frivolous law suits. Then maybe, doctors will quit being so defensive in their prescriptive actions. Kill Obamacare and allow the individual States to work out medical care services for those who can't afford insurance. Stop the Social Justice nonsense!!!	RP/TR
I think we should reduce the costs by curbing abuse of ordering unneeded medical tests, ensure doctors are qualified to perform procedures to reduce medical malpractice issues, look at how other countries such as Canada have managed to have much lower prescription drugs (this is a real hot button for me), and we should provide incentives to doctors who preform medical services probono for the poor and indigent	C
Leave TRICARE alone!! Veterans EARNED this entitlement	Etc
Two key approaches to reducing costs without cutting service coverage: First aggressively pursue fraud in Medicare / Mdiecaid and prosecute to the fullest; next set a higher threshold for medical malpractice suits and establish an arbitration program for lessor issues	MR
We need to look at what is reasonable profit margins. Many government contracts are limited on the amount of profit a suitor can realize. The Federal aquision regulations (FAR) determine the "ROS". I honestly believe the root cause of the issue is the cost of an education to obtain medical degrees in general. By the time the initial education, certification and licensing. I believe the high cost of medication started with the disappearance of the private practive family doctor that came to my home as a child and tended to me when I was ill and ohther family memebers. Managed care is the root evil of our health care cost dilemma	Etc
control malpractice - cap amount, stop the ambulance chasing lawyers	TR
Decrease mandates, privatize, free market means, tort reform	FM/TR

Reduce regulations controlling the industry and citizens choice of medical professional/treatment	FM
Decrease Insurance company involvement with medical practices	In/C
If we want really want to lower medical costs, we have to change the food that we put in our bodies first. This would mean changing laws about what is allowed in our foods. I would love to see legislation prohibiting MSG (and its other names) BHT, partially hydrogenated oils, High fructose corn syrup, etc in some way; especially in foods marketed for children. I would love to see a large gov't seal on foods that are whole, HFCS free, MSG free, etc. I would love to see large gov't GMO free labels too. We also need tougher laws restricting what chemicals can be released in to the environment from factories and businesses, etc and what chemicals are allowed in products that come in contact with the skin. In short, if it's toxic, don't make it. Our health care costs are so high right now due to chronic disease, immuno defeciency disease and cancers. Althought debated by those who are profiting from high health care costs, our health is directly affected by what we eat and the toxicity of our environment. That is a no brainer. If we clean ourselves up, we'll lower health cost	LC
Put a limit on medical malpractice suits, have government buy precription drugs in vast quantities to reduce costs, make people that can afford medicla pay for emergency room treatment, encourage greater telephone and/or online medical advice for simple problems by a practical nurse rather than a physician's visit. provide computerized dictation for Doctors so that they can spend time with a patient rather than sitting there typing. provide coverage for more preventive programs to reduce the probability of illness	TR/C
lower dollar limit for suing from \$3M to < \$1M which will lower malpractice insurance. Charge less for procedures that have been around for decades (i.e. CAT SCANS, X-rays etc.) Growing up we never had co-pays, deductibles and pay percentages of medical costs. These need to be lowered or eliminated. Stop having businesses (like HMO's) dictate what procedures get done and how much they will cover.Start putting medicine back in the hands of doctors. Have more doctor (peer reviews) review of patients.Doctors now have to run countless, needless tests for fear of being sued (just to cover their backs). Someone near to me had a \$500,000 medical bill. The ins. co. required him to pay 10% (\$50,000). It has taken him almost 10 years to pay off this ONE bill and he still has a balance due. That is absurd. Also cut down on Medicare/Medicaid fraud. This costs every taxpayer billions of dollars a year. Hire actual people to look some of these claims instead of a computer. Find out is payments are being made to legit doctors or some non-legit PO Boxes. Ever since HMO's were introduced, Medical costs have skyrocketed, not gotten lower as projected they would. Stop making it a for-profit business.. If more businesses would/could hire more people insurance costs should go down. don't require/fine people for not purchasing insurance. Every legit business (who employ over 10-20 people) should be offered insurance. Take the corruption out of the medical business	C
Encourage the use of Health Savings Accounts and high deductible health insurance plans. This will reduce the unnecessary procedures and prescription drug use when there is an "out of pocket" cost to the consumer	In
eliminate waste and abuse through rigorous enforcement and severe penalties	Etc
end regulation of the industry and get rid of the lobbyists control that drive up the costs of health care	FM
An immediate decrease in medical costs can be achieved by tort reform and a national (not government run) billing system	TR
Tort Reform	TR
Limit law suits	TR
Universal Health Care is not the answer. The "Private" Insurance providers need to be more closely regulated. They have a strong lobbying faction that has far too much influence on our lawmakers	C
Doctors should be protected from malpractice suits. They are only human and can only do their best. There is no reason for the whole of society to pay so much more for healthcare because people are greedy and will sue over a scuffed shoe these days	Etc
single payer health care - negotiated costs	SP
I think that the cost of preventive care should be covered by insurance companies. This would detect diseases early when the cost of curing would be minimal. The United States should not be responsible for the health care of illegal aliens	Etc
Keep Obamacare	RP

The reason that medical costs are skyrocketing is primarily based on the greed of pharmacy companies, new overpriced technologies, and greedy health care institutions/providers. Simply pay them less or let them go out of business to address the inflated costs of health care. It will casue other issues, but eventually the overinflated costs of health care will decrease. In addition, we won't have a lot of other issues related to high prices	C
Establish a health care commission to monitor mark up/profit of drug and hospital corps like utility commissions. Unlike regular manufacturing the products of drug and hospital corps are not discretionary so consumer can not refuse to buy over priced products	C
I believe the government should allow individuals to contribute to a fund which could be called "For the Good of the People Fund". Several weeks ago I heard a gathering of over 200 millionaires ask the government to take more money from them. It was noted that there was no legal entity available to accept these funds so they would not be allowed. If law could be passed to accept charitable contributions made by Big Business, Millionaires or just concerned citizens, some or all of this fund could be used to offset the cost of health care as well as other programs to help those who have little get more. I would be interested in finding out if this type of program could be enacted. Maybe all the cost would not be absorbed but it could diminish a great deal of money that the government would not have to appropriate by raising taxes	Etc
We need to find out why the costs are so high and escalating. Everyone should have medical insurance. Part of the problem is that those without medical insurance are getting their medical care costs paid by those who do have medical insurance. Finally members of Congress and the administration should pay their own medical care	Etc
allow insurance companies to compete on National level instead of state	FM
Stop the exploitative profiteering of large pharmaceutical companies and/or socialize healthcare	C
Where to start? Let me keep this simple. We have allowed the drug companies to get into politicians pockets as the oil companies have. I think that marijuana should be legalized for medicinal purposes as it has a proven track record that only the government denies because it would change the infrastructure of our government and they wouldn't have the income to continue to spend on wasteful programs. I think we need a committee , a watch dog if you wil as does our government. Waste is clearly evident in all aspects of the government but they want more money to waste instead of denying there own luxuries. So it is with the medical programs. I understand that research and new tech cost. But they, as with any large institution, with out someone to answer to, have literally spent themselves out by greed. The answer is clear. Only a fool would deny reality	Etc
The only thing the federal government is mandated to do for the taxpaying public regarding the economy is set regulations and laws to provide for a fair marketplace and address safety issues. In that light congress and the President should draft healthcare industry laws to allow for fair marketplace competetion by opening up cross-state business for insurance companies thereby promoting true pricing competetion. In addition the federal government needs to define more stringent rules for bringing mal-practice suits, the legal industry that revolves arounf medical mal-practice suits is a big part of the reason for rising healthcare insurance and health service costs. The Federal government in no way should be trying to RUN the healthcare industry. Give me a BREAK.	FM
Repeal the Obama Healthcare bill in it's entirety	RP
Form an oversite committee to regulate costs. Have a national health plan so costs can be easily controlled. by the authoroties. I had treatment for cance recently and one of the treatments was an injection that cost \$6000.00 (six thousand djollars) I had to have 4/5. The way things are at the moment the health industry has cantblange on costs. The industry is there to make as much money as possible	C
Focus on preventive care, make insurance affordable, create a healthcare system that charges fees on a sliding scale; decriminalize abortion in Virginia, offer Rx classes to inform citizenry about options	C
End Obamacare and introduce individual health care initiatives for vote in Congress. Work on liability caps for malpractice. Enforce eligibility requirements for all government funded and administered medical programs. In other words, REDUCE costs and minimize government administration. Let the market adjust itself, but put limits on greed	RP
Initially, eliminate any fiscal help after the 2nd child. This would wake a lot of careless people up along with the NAACP, who we can't continue to surrender to. Secondly, charge medical service rendered by with a fee for all, \$20.00 to \$50.00, whether you are insured or not. This wouldn't be poplar by any means but we need to face the hard facts today	Etc
High encourage and sponsor preventative care. It is far less expensive to help people develop good habits than it is to maintain quality of life and long term treatment for incurable diseases	LC

If there is such a thing as right to life, the there should be a right to quality health care. Health care should not be a for profit industry. It is a service	ACA
Medical expenses are increasing more than inflation because we are improving the quality of life; accept this as a good thing. Reduce costs by increasing co-pays on everything	FM